

# ***Coreopsis leavenworthii* Leavenworth's Tickseed<sup>1</sup>**

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## **Introduction**

Thirteen coreopsis species occur in Florida, eleven of which are widely considered native to Florida. *Coreopsis tinctoria* is native to the U.S but is considered non-native in Florida. *Coreopsis basalis* is considered native by some and non-native by others. The genus coreopsis is Florida's state wildflower.

*Coreopsis leavenworthii* is found throughout Florida, and until recently was considered endemic. It is an annual to short-lived perennial. These colorful plants have pinnately to bipinnately compound leaves. In cultivation, this species has more foliage than what would normally be seen in the wild.

Flowers are bright yellow with a dark brown center. A very narrow orange "ring" around the brown disc flowers might even be noticed. These lovely flowers are held upright upon tall, leafless stems that enable the blooms to be beautifully incorporated into flower arrangements, although there is no information on how *C. leaveworthii* performs as a cut. The flowers are borne in capitula with small discs, and the ray florets have dentate tips. Flowers are 1 to 1½ inches in diameter; flowering is from late spring in north Florida to any time in south Florida.



Figure 1. Full Form - *Coreopsis leavenworthii*: Leavenworth's Tickseed  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Flower - *Coreopsis leavenworthii*: Leavenworth's Tickseed  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

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## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Coreopsis leavenworthii*

**Pronunciation:** kor-ree-OP-sis lev-en-WERTH-ee-eye

**Common name(s):** Leavenworth's tickseed

**Family:** *Asteraceae*

**Plant type:** herbaceous; annual to short-lived perennial

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8B through 11 (Figure 3)

**Planting months for seed all zones:** Sept through Jan

**Planting months for transplants zones 8B and 9:** mid Mar to May

**Planting months for transplants zones 10 and 11:** mid Feb to May

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Invasive potential:** may self-seed each year

**Uses:** edging; mass planting; attracts butterflies

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of your local area to find the plant



Figure 3. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** pinnately to bipinnately compound

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** linear to oblong

**Leaf venation:** not applicable

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 6 to 8 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** not applicable

**Fall characteristic:** not applicable

## Flower

**Flower color:** yellow, with dark brown center

**Flower characteristic:** spring, summer, fall, winter; depending on region of Florida

## Fruit

**Fruit type:** achene

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** 1/8 inch

**Fruit cover:** not applicable

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Current year stem/twig color:** green

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun to high pine shade

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay; occasionally wet

**Drought tolerance:** low

**Soil salt tolerance:** unknown, but probably low

**Plant spacing:** 6 to 12 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** may flower during winter months in south Florida

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

Coreopsis species are generally short-lived and may only last 3 to 4 seasons. Try using these plants as a border or edge. They are also excellent for naturalizing and will reseed themselves. The stalks become long and weak and tend to break in windy or rainy weather.

*Coreopsis leavenworthii* require a sunny position in the landscape. They prefer well-drained soils that are not too rich; rich soils and overwatering cause these plants to topple over. Keep the soil relatively moist and remove dead flowers immediately to prolong blooming. Place these plants 6 to 12 inches apart in the garden.

Seed is the most common method of propagation for coreopsis. Division can also be accomplished in the spring or fall.

## Pests and Diseases

None observed.