

# Coreopsis spp. Tickseed, Coreopsis<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman, Teresa Howe, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

Seven species of coreopsis are native to the state of Florida. One species, *Coreopsis leavenworthii*, has been named Florida's state flower. Coreopsis are considered perennials as they reappear each year. These colorful plants have bright green leaves that can be either entire or lobed. These plants have single or double flowers that come in a variety of colors: orange, pink, purple, red, and yellow. These lovely flowers are held upright upon tall leafless stems that enable the blooms to be beautifully incorporated into flower arrangements. The flowers are borne in capitula with a small disc and the ray florets have dentate tips. These 1½ to 2 inch wide flowers appear in the spring, summer, and fall.



Figure 1. Full form - *Coreopsis* spp.: Tickseed, Coreopsis  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Flower - *Coreopsis* spp.: Tickseed, Coreopsis  
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## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Coreopsis* spp.

**Pronunciation:** kor-ree-OP-sis species

**Common name(s):** tickseed, coreopsis

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Plant type:** herbaceous; annual

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 10 (Figure 3)

**Planting month for zone 7:** May; Jun

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Department of Environmental Horticulture; and Teresa Howe, coordinator, Research Programs/Services, UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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**Planting month for zone 8:** Apr; May

**Planting month for zone 9:** Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** Mar; Apr

**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 the region 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:** simple

**Leaf margin:** lobed

**Leaf shape:** oblong

**Leaf venation:** not applicable

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** not applicable

**Fall characteristic:** not applicable

## Flower

**Flower color:** red; pink; purple; orange; yellow

**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** no fruit

**Fruit length:** no fruit

**Fruit cover:** no fruit

**Fruit color:** not applicable

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable

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

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

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun

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

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 6 to 12 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** not applicable

**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. Dwarf varieties may be selected for more polished plants. *C. lanceolata* grows about 15 to 18 inches tall but is not well suited for central and south Florida.

Coreopsis requires 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. Taller species of coreopsis may need support. Place these plants 6 to 12 inches apart in the garden.

The cultivar 'Early Sunrise' flowers sooner than others.

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

## Pests and Diseases

Leaf spots, rust, powdery mildew, aphids, leaf beetles, and mites may be occasional problems. Spotted cucumber beetles eat holes in the leaves.

Leaf spots may be seen but are usually not serious.