



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Coreopsis spp.¹

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Introduction

Seven species of *Coreopsis* are native to the state of Florida (Fig. 1). 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 discs, and the ray florets have dentate tips. These 1 1/2- to 2-inch-wide flowers appear in the spring, summer and fall.

General Information

Scientific name: *Coreopsis* spp.

Pronunciation: kor-ree-OP-sis species

Common name(s): Tick-Seed, Coreopsis

Family: *Compositae*

Plant type: herbaceous; annual

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 10 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: May; Jun

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

Uses: edging; mass planting; attracts butterflies

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

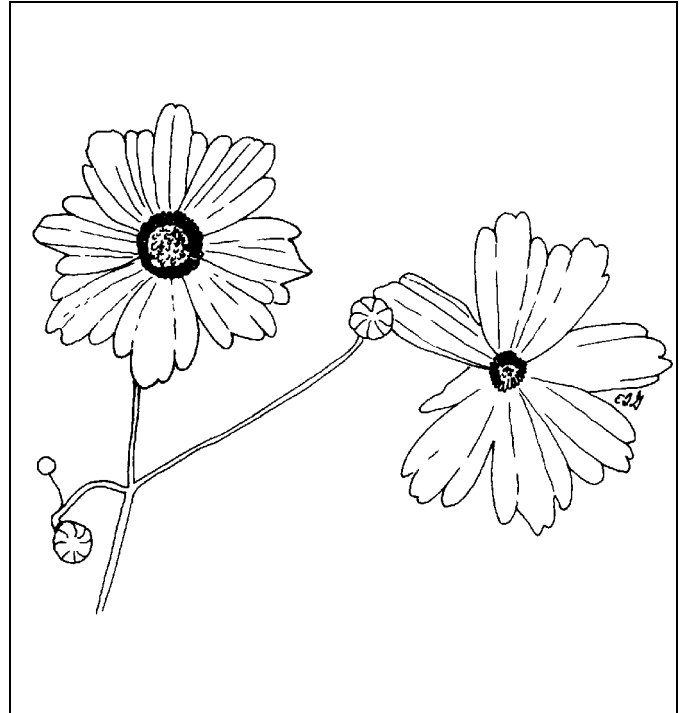


Figure 1. Tick-Seed.

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 3 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

Invasive potential: may self-seed each year

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.