



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Coreopsis tinctoria*<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman, Teresa Howe<sup>2</sup>

### 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 tinctoria*

**Pronunciation:** kor-ree-OP-sis tink-TOR-ee-uh

**Common name(s):** Calliopsis, Coreopsis

**Family:** *Compositae*

**Plant type:** annual

**USDA hardiness zones:** all zones (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 North America

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

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

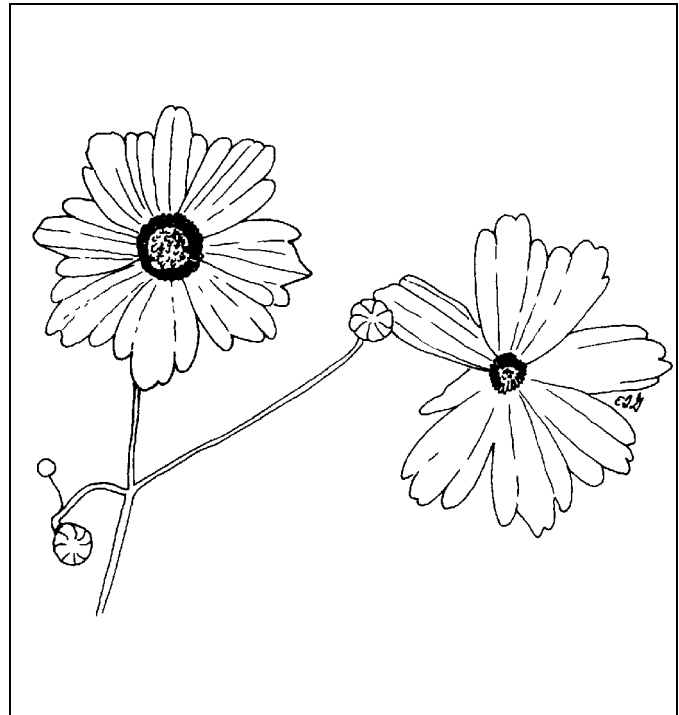


Figure 1. Calliopsis.

### Description

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Teresa Howe, coordinator - Research Programs/Services, Gulf Coast REC, Bradenton, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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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:** not applicable
- 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:** showy

**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.