

Florida's state wildflower

Florida's state wildflower is *Coreopsis*, commonly called Tickseed. Most of the 17 species that occur here are native to Florida. All 17 occur in North Florida. The number of Tickseed species is limited in South Florida, with Leavenworth's Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*) being most common.

Tickseeds commonly seen on roadsides are Leavenworth's, Swamp (*C. nudata*), Florida (*C. floridana*) and Coastalplain (*C. gladiata*), all of which occur in moist areas. Also common are Lanceleaf Tickseed (*C. lanceolata*) and Goldenmane Tickseed (*C. basalis*), which occur in drier sites.

Peak flowering time varies from spring to fall, depending on the species. However, Tickseeds that occur widely, such as Leavenworth's, tend to flower earlier in the south. Roadside conditions and vegetation management practices may cause Tickseed appearance to vary considerably and can reduce or extend flowering seasons.

All Tickseeds in Florida have daisy-like flowers with yellow petals, except Swamp Tickseed, which has pinkish purple petals. Petals, which actually are individual ray flowers, surround seed-producing disk flowers in the center. Each small, ovalish seed has two short spines at one end, which give the seed a tick-like appearance.



Photos: Jeff Norcini

Viva La Florida!

In March 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon arrived in the land he would name *La Florida*, "land of flowers," in honor of Spain's Easter season, *Pascua Florida*. The abundant spring wildflowers he would have seen could have influenced the name choice.

Florida has the nation's third-largest diversity of wildflowers, from the state wildflower, *Coreopsis*, to beauties that include Blanketflower (*Gaillardia pulchella*), Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*), Standing Cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*) and Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). Many can be seen along roadsides that are managed for wildflowers or infrequently mowed.

Learn more about the state's roadside wildflower program at www.fdot.gov/designsupport/wildflowers/default.shtm.

Why wildflowers?

Florida's native wildflowers nourish pollinators that put food on our tables. They also conserve water in landscapes, protect water and air quality, supply wildlife habitat, beautify communities, and help maintain a healthy environment for all.

Pick a State Wildflower!

The State Wildflower license plate is Florida's only dedicated funding source for native wildflower planting, education and research projects. Get your plate today at your county tag office.



Plant and seed sources
www.PlantRealFlorida.org
www.FloridaWildflowers.com

Get involved

For more information on Florida's native wildflowers and the work of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, visit www.FlaWildflowers.org. You can support Florida's wildflowers by becoming a Florida Wildflower Foundation member. Visit www.FlaWildflowers.org/support.

Florida Wildflower Foundation

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Coreopsis

FLORIDA'S STATE WILDFLOWER



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Coreopsis auriculata
Lobed Tickseed

Flowering: Spring
Height: ½ to 1 ft
Habitat: Woodland edges; sandy, dry, pine forests
Roadside frequency: Rare;
Escambia County only
Notes: Only recently observed in Florida. Native to the U.S. but may not be native to Florida.



Photo/Arleigh Birchler

Coreopsis grandiflora
Largeflower Tickseed

Flowering: Spring, summer
Height: 1 to 2 ft
Habitat: Disturbed sites
Roadside frequency: Rare
Note: Many popular garden plants are derived from this species.



Photo/Edith Bettinger, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Coreopsis linifolia
Texas Tickseed

Flowering: Fall
Height: 2 to 4 ft
Habitat: Moist areas – ditches, pine flatwoods, prairies, edges of cypress swamps
Roadside frequency: Occasional
Notes: Resembles *C. leavenworthii* but peak flowering of *C. linifolia* is much later in the season. Tiny black dots can be seen on leaves when leaves are backlit and viewed close up. Thought to be one of the parent plants of *C. floridana*.



Photo/Jeff Norcini

Coreopsis pubescens
Star Tickseed

Flowering: Summer
Height: 1 to 4 ft
Habitat: Moist sites – pine flatwoods
Roadside frequency: Rare
Note: Named 'pubescens' because the leaves and stems are downy; the common name refers to the star-like arrangement of the green bracts underneath the petals.



Photo/Jeff McMillan, USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Coreopsis basalis **Goldenmane Tickseed**

Flowering: Spring
Height: 1 to 1 ½ ft
Habitat: Disturbed sites with dry to slightly dry, sandy soil
Roadside frequency: Occasional; locally abundant in Big Bend region
Notes: Could be named Florida's Mother's Day wildflower for the time of year it reliably puts on a spectacular show in the Big Bend region. Multi-acre meadows and stands stretch for miles along roads. While *C. basalis* is native to the U.S., its nativity to Florida continues to be debated.



Photo/Jeff Norcini

Coreopsis integrifolia
Fringeleaf or Chipola Tickseed

Flowering: Fall
Height: 1 to 2 ft
Habitat: Moist areas – floodplains, river and stream banks
Roadside frequency: Rare
Note: Endangered in Florida.



Photo/Bill Boothe

Coreopsis major
Greater Tickseed

Flowering: Summer
Height: 2 to 3 ft
Habitat: Sandy dry sites
Roadside frequency: Rare
Note: Flower resembles *C. tripteris*, but the *C. major* disk flowers tend to be more greenish.



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Coreopsis tinctoria
Golden Tickseed

Flowering: Summer
Height: 1 to 4 ft
Habitat: Moist sites – ditches and disturbed sites
Roadside frequency: Rare, except locally abundant where planted
Notes: Native to the U.S. but probably not native to modern-day Florida. Will probably hybridize with *C. leavenworthii* when both species are in close proximity; hybrid will have small dark-red spot at base of petal.



Photo/Bill Boothe

Coreopsis floridana **Florida Tickseed**

Flowering: Very late summer to very late fall
Height: 2 to 3 ft
Habitat: Moist areas – ditches, pine flatwoods, prairies, edges of cypress swamps
Roadside frequency: Occasional; more common in Central and South Florida than in North Florida
Notes: Only occurs in Florida and is nearly identical to *Coreopsis gladiata*. May be a hybrid of *C. gladiata* and *C. linifolia*.



Photo/Jeff Norcini

Coreopsis lanceolata **Lanceleaf Tickseed**

Flowering: Spring
Height: 10 to 15 inches
Habitat: Disturbed sites, often sandy; infrequently occurs in glades in the Panhandle
Roadside frequency: Occasional to locally abundant
Notes: A less common hairy form occurs in dry, sandy sites and tends to flower a bit later than the common nonhairy form. Outside of North Florida, the nonhairy form is usually the first *Coreopsis* to flower in the spring. The hairy form is known as "Hairy Lance." The naturally occurring *C. lanceolata* is much smaller than the common garden variety, which is sometimes planted on roadsides. The garden variety is much larger overall and can be 2 feet tall.



Photo/Jeff Norcini

Coreopsis nudata
Swamp Tickseed

Flowering: Spring
Height: 2 to 5 ft
Habitat: Moist areas – ditches, pine flatwoods, prairies, marshes and swamps
Roadside frequency: Occasional; locally abundant
Note: Of the 16 *Coreopsis* species in Florida, usually the first one to flower in the spring.



Photo/Jeff Norcini

Coreopsis tripteris
Tall Tickseed

Flowering: Summer
Height: 2 to 4 ft
Habitat: Moist – hardwood or hardwood/pine forests
Roadside frequency: Rare
Note: Only *Coreopsis* species in Florida with compound leaves composed of 3 lance-shaped leaflets, with these leaves most often occurring in the middle part of the plant.



Photo/Bill Boothe

Coreopsis gladiata – **Coastalplain Tickseed**

Flowering: Late summer, fall
Height: 2 to 3 ft
Habitat: Moist areas – ditches, pine flatwoods, prairies, edges of cypress swamps
Roadside frequency: Occasional; locally abundant in North Florida; more common in North than in Central Florida
Notes: Nearly identical to *Coreopsis floridana*. A reddish blotch at the base of the petals occurs on some plants. Thought to be one of the parent plants of *C. floridana*.



Photo/Jeff Norcini

Coreopsis leavenworthii **Leavenworth's Tickseed**

Flowering: Spring, summer
Height: 1 to 2 ft
Habitat: Moist areas – ditches, pine flatwoods
Roadside frequency: Common; locally abundant
Notes: In southernmost Florida, some plants may flower at any time of year. Flower size in South Florida tends to be smaller than in North Florida.



Photo/Roger Hammer

Coreopsis nuecensis
Crown Tickseed

Flowering: Spring
Height: 1 to 3 ft
Habitat: Disturbed sandy sites
Roadside frequency: Rare; only observed in St. Johns County
Note: Not native to Florida; may be a garden escapee.



Photo/Bill Boothe

Coreopsis palustris
Helianthus-Leaf Swamp Tickseed

Found only in Duval County. Last observed in 1898.



Coreopsis bakeri
Baker's tickseed

Discovered in 2015. To learn more, visit FlaWildflowers.org/welcome-bakers-tickseed.



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