

Coastalplain goldenaster

(*Chrysopsis scabrella*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Coastalplain goldenaster is a biennial herbaceous wildflower. Typically, a single flower stalk will arise from a basal rosette of leaves, and produce one or more flat-topped and many-flowered inflorescence. Individual flowers are compound and consist of yellow-orange disk florets surrounded by bright yellow ray florets. Basal leaves are whitish-green, pubescent and spatulate with toothed margins. Stem leaves are sessile and scabrous (hence the species name *scabrella*). They are alternately arranged. Both flowers and leaves are often sticky to the touch. Lower leaves tend to dry out as the plant matures.

Coastalplain goldenaster typically blooms from late summer into late fall. It occurs naturally in sandhills, scrub, flatwoods and ruderal areas.

Worldwide, there are 11 species of *Chrysopsis*, all of which are found in Florida.

Chrysopsis comes from the Greek *chrysos*, meaning “golden,” and *opsis*, meaning “likeness or appearance,” referring to the color of the flower.

Family: Asteraceae (Composite or daisy family)

Native range: Peninsular Florida south into Collier and Broward counties

To see where natural populations of Coastalplain goldenaster have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Hardiness: Zones 8–10

Soil: Dry, sandy soils

Exposure: Full sun to minimal shade

Growth habit: 2–3' tall

Propagation: Seed

Garden tips: Coastalplain goldenaster is easy to grow and maintain in a landscape setting, but it is rarely available commercially. When in bloom, it is striking due to its many bright flowers.



Photo by Wayne Matchett



Photo by Lisa Roberts.