

Swamp tickseed

(*Coreopsis nudata*)

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

Swamp tickseed is a short-lived perennial with charming pink and yellow blooms. The flower is comprised of vivid purplish-pink ray florets that can be up to 1" long and are notched. They surround a compact center of bright yellow disk florets. Leaves are linear and more abundant at the base of the stem, becoming smaller and fewer as they ascend it. Stems are slender, glabrous and may be branched. The fruit is an elliptic-shaped achene.

Swamp tickseed occurs naturally in wet prairies, bogs, seepage slopes, wet flatwoods and roadside ditches. It blooms in spring (typically April and May) and is attractive to bees, although butterflies and other pollinators are known to visit them. Birds eat its seeds.

One of 14 species of *Coreopsis* native to Florida, Swamp tickseed is the only one that is pink. It is often confused with the non-native *Cosmos bipinnatus*.

The genus *Coreopsis* comes from the Greek *koris*, or "bug," and *opsis*, or "appearance," and refers to the shape of the seed (as does the common name "tickseed"). The species name *nudata* means "nude" or "without leaf."

Family: Asteraceae (Aster, daisy or composite family)

Native range: Panhandle, several counties in the northern peninsula

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

Hardiness: Zone 8

Soil: Wet sand, loam or muck

Exposure: Full to partial sun

Growth habit: 3–5' tall

Propagation: Seeds

Garden tips: Swamp tickseed is easy to grow from seed. It requires consistent soil moisture to persist.

Swamp tickseed plants are occasionally available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit PlantRealFlorida.org to find a native nursery on your area.



Photo by Vince Lamb