

Cutleaf coneflower

(*Rudbeckia laciniata*)

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

Cutleaf coneflower is a robust wildflower that occurs naturally in mesic hammocks and meadows, on stream banks and in wet roadside ditches. It blooms summer through fall. The flowers are popular among pollinators and the seeds are a favored food source for songbirds.

Cutleaf coneflower's 2- to 4-inch blooms are comprised of seven to 20 bright yellow ray florets that typically arch downward, giving the flower its eponymous cone shape. Center disk florets are greenish yellow. Leaves are alternate, with lower leaves divided into one or two pairs of broad, toothed lobes and upper leaves that may or may not be lobed. Seeds are born in achenes.

The genus name *Rudbeckia* is an homage to Oluf Rudbeck the Younger (1660–1740) and his father, Oluf Rudbeck the Elder (1630–1702), both of whom were Swedish botanists and professors of Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy. The species epithet *laciniata* refers to Cutleaf coneflower's lobed leaves.

Family: Asteraceae (Aster or Composite family)

Native range: Levy, Leon, Gadsden, Liberty and Walton counties

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

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Moist to wet sand or loam

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Growth habit: Up to 8 feet tall

Propagation: Seeds, division

Florida regions of landscape suitability: North

Garden tips: Due to its height, Cutleaf coneflower is best utilized in the background of a native plant meadow or naturalistic setting. It prefers moist soils, but once established, can tolerate brief periods of drought. It can also become a bit weedy as it tends to spread aggressively by rhizome.

Cutleaf coneflower is available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org to find a nursery in your area.



Photo by Eleanor Dietrich

SCAN FOR FULL
PLANT PROFILE:

