Goldenaster (Chrysopsis spp.) is a member of the Asteraceae (daisy) family. Members of this genus range from the Northeastern U.S. to the southern Midwest and the entire Southeast. Florida has 11 native Chrysopsis species, eight of which are endemic. Look for them primarily in scrub habitats and well-drained pinelands.

**Description**

Florida’s goldenasters include species found nowhere else in the world, and several are listed by the state as rare or endangered. The most commonly encountered species are Maryland goldenaster (Chrysopsis mariana) and Coastalplain goldenaster (C. scabrella). Maryland goldenaster is found in well-drained pinelands throughout Florida, with the exception of the extreme south. Coastalplain goldenaster is a short-lived biennial, occurring in sandhills throughout the peninsula, except for the extreme southern portion.

Florida goldenaster (C. floridana) is naturally rare — endemic only to four counties in west Central Florida. However, it is often commercially available and easy to grow. It is more compact than other Chrysopsis species and is most attractive in late spring and early summer when not in bloom. Its beautiful silvery white foliage is reminiscent of lupine.

Goldenaster’s clusters of yellow daisylike flowers are cheerful and profuse, with multiple buds at the end of each branch. Flowering usually peaks in late summer or early fall and lasts up to a month, depending on the species. All are deciduous, losing their foliage in winter and rising in spring from a basal rosette of soft wooly leaves covered with dense white “hairs.”

**Plants**

Goldenaster is drought tolerant once established and performs best in full sun, but also adapts to high pine shade. Use it as a “mid-section” addition to gardens, planting it well behind the border. Because of some species’ leggy growth, consider planting goldenaster among sturdy wildflowers that can help keep plants erect.

When planted in mass, goldenaster can be an eye-catcher when blooming — just keep in mind its deciduous nature. Chrysopsis plants can be planted any time and should bloom within a year of planting. However, if plants are large and close to blooming when planted, they may not have time to become established well enough to yield an abundance of blooms.

**Seeds**

Maryland goldenaster seeds are available from the Florida Wildflower Seed Cooperative. Sow in well-drained soil in late fall or winter. Seeds collected from plants should be sown immediately.

**Butterflies and bees**

The plant’s flower nectar is attractive to native butterflies, as well as to a variety of native bees with long tongues, including green metallic bees, sweat bees, leafcutter bees, bumble bees, mining bees and miner bees.

**Care**

Goldenaster needs little, if any, grooming. Resist the temptation to nip back its stems when it sprawls; doing so will reduce its ability to flower. Let seeds ripen on stems once fall flowering is done, and you’ll be rewarded with more plants the next spring. When stems die and become brittle, they may be trimmed from the plant.

**Site conditions**

In general, goldenaster loves full sun and does best in well-drained sandy soils. Plant Coastalplain goldenaster in sandy, well-drained soil. Florida goldenaster does best in white, scrub-like sand. It is most likely to reseed in these conditions. Maryland goldenaster will tolerate wetter and more organic conditions than other Chrysopsis species. All commercially available species adapt well to sunny urban landscapes if not overwatered.

**Hardiness zones**

Maryland goldenaster is suited to zones 8A–9B. Florida and Coastalplain goldenaster are best for zone 9.