

# Burr marigold

(*Bidens laevis*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Burr marigold is an annual wildflower that grows en masse in wetlands and along river and marsh edges throughout Florida. Its blooms consist of bright yellow ray florets and dark yellow to brownish disk florets. Its leaves are linear to elliptic in shape and oppositely arranged. Burr marigolds bloom in late fall through early winter.

*Bidens laevis* bears many similarities to other members of the *Bidens* genus:

- It attracts many bees and butterflies and is an important source of nectar.
- Its seeds have two barb-like bristles on the end that stick to clothing, hair and animal fur. (The name *Bidens* comes from the Latin words *bis*, meaning “two,” and *dens*, meaning “tooth.”)
- Its young leaves are edible. (But unlike other *Bidens* members, its leaves are unlobed.)



Photo by Mary Keim

**Family:** Asteraceae (Aster, daisy or composite family)

**Native range:** Throughout Florida

To see where natural populations of Burr marigold has been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

**Hardiness:** Zones 7–11

**Soil:** Moist to wet or inundated soils

**Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

**Growth habit:** 2–3' tall

**Propagation:** Seed

**Garden tips:** A mass of Burr marigold can be beautiful in a large wetland planting, but it is not recommended for the small or formal landscape as it can spread prolifically.

Burr marigold is often available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit [PlantRealFlorida.org](http://PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a native nursery on your area.