

Lanceleaf tickseed

(*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

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

Lanceleaf tickseed is a perennial wildflower with conspicuously sunny blooms. The flower consists of a dense head of yellow-orange disk florets, surrounded by bright yellow ray florets. The rays are four-lobed or notched. The flower stalk arises from a clumplike basal rosette of lance-shaped leaves (giving the plant its species epithet and the descriptor in its common name). The leaves are grass-green in color and become lobed as they move up the stem. They are oppositely arranged.

Lanceleaf tickseed typically blooms in spring and sometimes into summer. It occurs naturally in moist sandhills, marshes, and along swamp edges.

Lanceleaf tickseed is a wonderful wildflower that attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Its seeds are commonly eaten by birds and small wildlife.

The genus name *Coreopsis* is derived from the Greek words *koris*, meaning “bug,” and *opsis*, meaning “view.” This refers to the shape of the fruit and is also the source of the plant’s common name, “tickseed.”

Lanceleaf tickseed is one of 13 species of *Coreopsis* native to Florida. *Coreopsis* is Florida’s state wildflower.

Family: Asteraceae (Daisy, aster or composite family)

Native range: Panhandle; Alachua, Lake, St. Johns, Suwannee and Volusia Counties

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

Hardiness: Zones 8–11

Soil: Moist, well-drained soil

Exposure: Full sun to partial shade

Growth habit: 12”–30” tall

Propagation: Seeds, division

Garden tips: Lanceleaf tickseed is very adaptable and does well in a garden or landscape setting.

It can be used in butterfly or wildflower gardens, or in a mass wildflower or meadow planting. It is a prolific self-seeder and may become weedy if not maintained.

Lanceleaf tickseed seeds can be purchased through the Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative at www.FloridaWildflowers.com. Plants are often available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org to find a nursery in your area.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo