

Narrowleaf yellowtops

(*Flaveria linarias*)

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

Narrowleaf yellowtops is a perennial, low-growing herbaceous shrub with a woody base. Its inflorescence is a showy corymb of bright yellow flowers that are somewhat flat-topped. Flowers are small but great in number. Its leaves are linear, sessile and oppositely arranged.

Narrowleaf yellowtops occur naturally in Florida's depression and basin marshes, wet prairies, pine rocklands, hydric hammocks, mangrove swamp and tidal marsh edges, and in disturbed or ruderal areas. It attracts many butterflies, bees and flower beetles.

Family: Asteraceae (Aster, daisy or composite family)

Native range: Eastern coastal Panhandle, most coastal peninsular counties from Levy and St. Johns south to the Keys

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

Hardiness: Zones 8–11

Soil: Well-drained, sandy and nutrient-poor soils

Exposure: Full sun to minimal shade

Growth habit: 2–3' tall, usually wider than tall

Propagation: Seed, division, cuttings

Garden tips: Narrowleaf yellowtops is a tough plant that has a high tolerance for stress. It does well in urban settings and areas where soil may be disturbed. It is highly salt- and drought-tolerant. Yellowtops can become weedy after flowering, so pruning is recommended. Because it grows low and wide, it does well in mixed plantings and as a tall groundcover.

Narrowleaf yellowtops seeds are available through the Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative. Plants are often available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit PlantRealFlorida.org to find a native nursery in your area.



Photo by Mary Keim