

Burr marigold

(*Bidens laevis*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit 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. It blooms in late fall through early winter and is an important source of nectar, attracting a wide variety of pollinators including bees, wasps and butterflies.

Burr marigold flowers consist of bright yellow ray florets and dark yellow to brownish disk florets. Its leaves are linear to elliptic in shape and oppositely arranged. Like others in the genus, its seeds have two barb-like bristles on the end that stick to clothing, hair and animal fur. The genus name *Bidens* comes from the Latin words *bis*, meaning "two," and *dens*, meaning "tooth."



Photo by Mary Keim

Family: Asteraceae (Aster, daisy or composite family)

Native range: Throughout Florida

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

Lifespan: Annual

Soil: Moist to wet or inundated soils

Exposure: Full sun to partial shade

Growth habit: 2–3' tall

Propagation: Seed

Florida regions of landscape suitability: North, Central, South

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

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