



ALMANAC

Thursday, May 1, 2025



ORDER YOUR ALMANAC TODAY!

HOME > GARDENING > GROWING GUIDES

How to Grow Coreopsis: The Complete Coreopsis Flower Guide



Photo Credit: All for you friend/Shutterstock

Bo

tan

ica

I

Na

me

:

Coreop

sis spp.

Pla [Flower](#)

FREE GUIDE!



Sun Exposure: [Full Sun](#)

Soil pH: [Neutral](#)

Bloom Time: [Summer](#), [Fall](#)

Flower Color: [Orange](#), [Pink](#), [Purple](#), [Red](#), [Yellow](#)

Hardiness Zones: [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)

Special Features: [Attracts Butterflies](#)

Planting, Growing, and Caring for Coreopsis

By [Catherine Boeckmann](#)

Last Updated: April 16, 2025



Sign up for daily gardening advice and tips

Enter your email address

SIGN UP

ADVERTISEMENT

**The Almanac Garden Planner -
Use It Free for 7 Days!**



Plan your 2025 garden with our
award-winning Garden Planner.

TRY NOW

The coreopsis flower (tickseed) is a long-blooming perennial that flowers from early summer until fall frost. Planted in fall or spring, this deer-resistant native is beloved by bees and butterflies. Here's how to plant this fan favorite as well as deadhead coreopsis—and other growing tips.

ADVERTISEMENT

The name “coreopsis” stems from the Greek *koris*, for “bedbug,” and *opis*, meaning “resembling,” because the seeds look like bedbugs. The common name is tickseed, which comes from the seeds’ resemblance to ticks.

Coreopsis is usually planted as a perennial that spreads with rhizomatous roots. However, there are annual types, too, that tend to be short-lived and self-sowing. The annual varieties are often included in wildflower seed mixes. Some hybrids put energy into making colorful blooms (but set few seeds).

The daisy-like yellow, red, orange, pink, and violet flowers bloom from summer to fall. Even as other summer flowers fade in the fall, coreopsis is often still strong. Countless small blooms sit atop thin, branching stems, making coreopsis suitable for planting in a number of areas. Not only do bees and butterflies love its nectar, but small birds, such as goldfinches, love its seeds.

drought, and when cut, adds cheer to a bouquet. Plant in masses for striking visual effects. It is well suited to beds, borders, and containers.

ADVERTISEMENT



Read Next

- [How to Grow Blanket Flowers \(Gaillardia\)](#)

- [How to Grow Gauras: The Complete Gaura Flower Guide](#)

PLANTING

Coreopsis requires full sun and good drainage, but they will grow and bloom (to a lesser extent) in partial sun, as well. It tolerates poor soil but not clay. Add compost to improve drainage before planting.

When to Plant Coreopsis

- Perennial coreopsis plants can be planted anytime from spring through early fall.
- Annual varieties should be seeded directly in the ground after the last spring frost.
- If you wish to start earlier, sow indoors 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost.

How to Plant Coreopsis

- Set perennial transplants 12 to 18 inches apart.
- If planting annuals, do not cover seeds

- If starting indoors, use a potting mix that contains either peat moss or perlite. Keep indoor seeds warm (70°F or so) and moist.
- Water until plants are established.

GROWING

- Water established coreopsis plants during dry spells.
- Be careful with fertilizer, which may cause spindly plants with few flowers. Only apply 10-10-10 lightly in spring, if desired.
- Deadhead flowers for continuous blooms, removing both the spent flower and its stalk.
- In mid- to late summer, when flowers fade, shear off 1/4 to 1/2 of growth to encourage late-season reblooming.
- After a couple of fall frosts, cut perennials back to 6 to 8 inches to protect the crowns. Remove plant debris. Or, leave the seed heads on the plants in the fall for the birds.
- Spread a layer of compost, then a layer

- Divide perennials every 3 to 4 years in spring or early fall.



Types

- *Coreopsis verticillata* (Threadleaf Tickseed) '**Zagreb**': golden yellow; 12 to 18 inches tall; hardy in Zones 4 to 9
- *C. grandiflora* '**SunKiss**': large yellow flowers with burgundy centers; 12 to 14 inches; ideal for cutting; hardy in Zones 4 to 9
- *C. auriculata* '**Snowberry**': creamy white flowers with burgundy centers; 24 to 30 inches tall; hardy in Zones 3 to 8
- *C. auriculata* '**Nana**': yellow flowers; 2 to 4 inches tall; makes a beautiful ground cover; hardy in Zones 4 to 9
- **Annual native C. tinctoria** (aka plain

flowers with dark-red centers; 2 to 4 feet tall; hardy in Zones 2 to 11

- Hybrid C. '**Razzle Dazzle**': large violet-purple blooms with white tips; 16 to 22 inches; hardy in Zones 5 to 9
- Hybrid C. '**Moonbeam**': light creamy yellow, 12 to 18 inches tall; hardy in Zones 4 to 9



Coreopsis verticillata Moonbeam.

Credit: Shutterstock

HARVESTING

- Cut flowers for arrangements when they are fully opened. Cutting them in morning is best.
- Recut the stems at an angle and remove leaves from the bottom half of

- Change the water completely every 3 days.
- Coreopsis will last 7 to 10 days in a vase.
- Coreopsis is an excellent cut flower in a mixed bouquet.

GARDENING PRODUCTS



PESTS/DISEASES

Coreopsis is deer-resistant.

Diseases: asters yellow, Botrytis blight, fungal leaf spot, powdery mildew, Rhizoctonia root and stem rot, rust,

WIT AND WISDOM

- In the language of flowers, coreopsis means “always cheerful.”
- Coreopsis flowers and roots were traditionally steeped into teas by some early Native Americans.
- The flowers can be used to make yellow and red dyes.

FLOWERS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Catherine Boeckmann



Catherine Boeckmann loves nature, stargazing, and gardening so it's not surprising that she and The Old Farmer's Almanac found each other. She leads digital content for the Almanac website, and is also a certified master gardener in the state of Indiana. [Read More from Catherine Boeckmann](#)

MORE LIKE THIS



How to Grow Blanket Flowers (Gaillardia)



How to Grow Dianthus: The Complete Dianthus Flower Guide



How to Grow Gauras: The Complete Gaura Flower Guide



How to Grow Verbenas: The Complete Verbena Flower Guide



Drought- Tolerant Flowers for Hot, Dry Spells



20 Sunny Yellow Flowers for Your Garden



GROW YOUR BEST GARDEN YET

Join The Old Farmer's Almanac
Gardening Club Today!

[LEARN MORE](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

COMMENTS

ADD A COMMENT

Rononpi (not verified) 2 years 8 months ago

Coreopsis is the state wildflower of Florida.
Coreopsis blooms year round here, but is most
productive in the fall and winter.

ADVERTISEMENT

REPLY

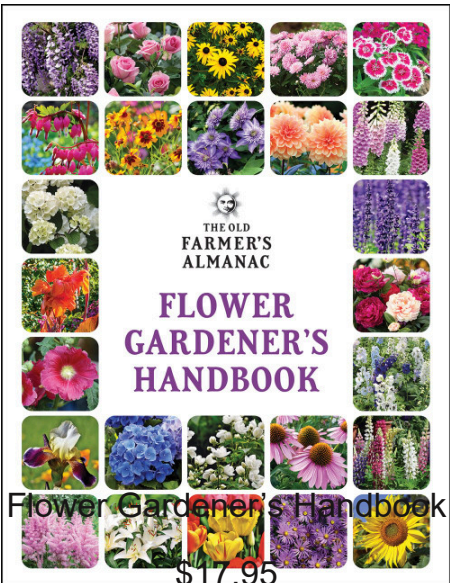
THE OLD
FARMER'S STORE



Ole Time Woodsman Fly Dope

\$21.95

BUY NOW



Flower Gardener's Handbook

\$17.95

BUY NOW



Ben's Pure Maple Cream

\$13.95

BUY NOW



Rain Gauge Stake - Heron

\$45.99

BUY NOW

ADVERTISEMENT

Our Brands

[The Old Farmer's](#)

[Almanac for Kids](#)

[Yankee Magazine](#)

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

[NH Business Review](#)

[New Hampshire](#)

[Magazine](#)

[Yankee Custom](#)

[Marketing](#)

Resources

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Free Daily Newsletter](#)

[Webcam](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)

[Media Relations](#)

[Sell the Almanac](#)

[Where to Buy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie List](#)

[Do Not Sell or Share](#)

[My Personal](#)

[Information](#)

Connect with Us



©2025 [Yankee Publishing Inc.](#), An Employee-Owned Company