

# **Coreopsis grandiflora (Tickseed Coreopsis)**

Botanical Bytes by Bruner

By Gregory Bruner

Foliage Height: 12-18”  
Foliage Width: 12-18”  
Flower Height: 18-24”  
Foliage Color: Green  
Flower Color: Yellow  
USDA Hardiness: 4-10  
Moisture: Average - Dry  
Light: Full Sun - Part Sun



Coreopsis grandiflora is a prolific beauty found as far west as Wisconsin and New Mexico, while also covering the United States the whole way to the east coast.

Tickseed’s adaptability allows it to inhabit a wide range of locations including meadows, open woodlands, and roadsides. Its rugged constitution allows it to survive down to USDA Zone 4. Soil conditions generally are not an issue for Tickseed because it generally grows in areas with poor soil.

Depending on the severity of the winter, foliage is evergreen to semi-evergreen and deeply lobed, adding interest all year. Generally the previous year’s foliage should be trimmed back late in the winter or early in the spring before new growth begins to improve the plant’s appearance.

Breaking down the name in Latin creates an interesting picture. Coreopsis is derived from Koris meaning “bug” and Opsis meaning “view,” while grandiflora is broken down into the root words grandis meaning “large” and flora meaning “flowers.” The common name Tickseed gives us one more clue. What we discover is a perennial with large flowers whose seeds resemble a tick.

Coreopsis is a workhorse of the garden when it comes to our feathery friends and colorful flutterbys. Butterflies and small skippers are attracted to the nectar of the flowers, while the foliage is actually a food source for two types of moth larvae.

Hummingbirds can be found occasionally around Tickseed, but it’s not because of the flower’s nectar. Generally the hummingbird will look like it’s in aerial combat, chasing tiny insects that are found around Tickseed and eating them as a protein source.

Winter is another time for Coreopsis grandiflora to shine. The seeds are a wonderful food for our feathery family members in the winter. If possible, let the seed heads alone throughout the winter and clean them up in the spring.

Coreopsis grandiflora is perfect for an informal native wildflower garden, yet sophisticated enough to be a member of a traditional perennial border.