

# *Coreopsis verticillata* - Threadleaf Coreopsis

or Whorled Tickseed (*Asteraceae*)

*Coreopsis verticillata* is a popular perennial that has cutleaf foliage and a relatively long bloom period in summer. Threadleaf Coreopsis has cultivars having showy flowers in various shades of yellow. It differs from *Coreopsis lanceolata* (also known as *Coreopsis grandiflora*) in that the latter has large lance-shaped foliage, slightly larger flowers that are in the gold and orange shades of yellow, and retains a clump-forming growth habit with age.

## FEATURES

### Form

- small herbaceous perennial
- maturing on average at 2' tall x 2' wide, but cultivars are often slightly more compact
- initially an upright clump growth habit, becoming radiating and rounded with age, then spreading by underground rhizomes to form a dense colony



### Culture

- full sun to partial sun
- performs best in full sun in moist, well-drained soils of average fertility, but is tolerant of various urban stresses, including poor soils, dry soils, thin soils, soils of various pH, heat, and drought
- propagated primarily by crown division
- Daisy Family, with few disease or pest problems abundantly available in containers
- often needs division every third year for rejuvenation and to keep it inbound
- deadheading after the initial flowering period in mid-summer will encourage rebloom later in the summer or early autumn

### Foliage

- medium to dark green, opposite, and without petioles (leaves are sessile on the stems)
- fine-textured and extremely cutleaf, with the simple leaf deeply cut into linear segments, resembling at first glance a pinnately compound leaf or needle-like
- leaves in a whorled arrangement around the upright stems

### Flowers

- shades of lime, yellow, and yellow-orange, depending upon cultivar; the disk and ray flowers are almost the same color
- flowering in July, then either continuously or

sporadically for the remainder of the summer

### Fruits

- small fruiting heads, borne at the center of each flower, have many small seeds (supposedly resembling ticks, hence the common name), and are best sheared off after the flush of early summer bloom, to promote sporadic rebloom later

## USAGE

### Function

- beds, borders, mass plantings, entranceways, foundations, raised planters, and naturalized sunny areas

### Texture

- ultra-fine texture
- thick density

### Assets

- very showy and profuse yellow flowers in early to mid-summer, with the potential for sporadic rebloom if deadheaded
- fine-textured cutleaf foliage
- rapid establishment, with high ornamental appeal

### Liabilities

- can easily get out-of-bounds within 3 yrs. when in rich, loose soil due to its shallow, spreading underground stolons

### Habitat

- Zones 3 to 9
- Native to the Southeastern U.S.

## SELECTIONS

### Alternates

- summer-flowering perennials with warm colors (*Coreopsis lanceolata*, *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*, *Helenium autumnale*, *Heliopsis helianthoides*, *Hemerocallis*, *Kniphofia*, *Rudbeckia nitida*, etc.)

### Variants

- Coreopsis rosea* - formerly listed as *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Rosea', it has miniature light lavender-pink flowers with yellow centers, to 1' x 2'
- Coreopsis verticillata* 'Golden Showers' - yellow-orange flowers, 2.5' x 2.5', generally now replaced by the more compact 'Zagreb'
- Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' - a very popular cultivar and one of the very best perennials, having light lemon-colored flowers that prolifically rebloom after the initial mid-summer flush, to 1.5' x 2'
- Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb' - yellow-orange flowers, 1.5' x 1.5'