

BWSR Featured Plant

Name: Prairie Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*)

Also called: Stiff Tickseed, Finger Coreopsis

Plant Family: Asteraceae (Aster)

Statewide Wetland
Indicator Status:

- UPL



Prairie Coreopsis flowers
Image by Katy Chayka of Minnesota



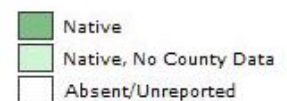
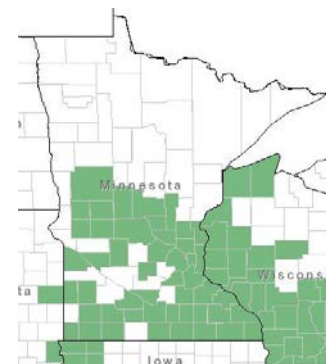
Tri-lobed leaves
Image by Katy Chayka of Minnesota Wildflowers

Blooming in early to mid-summer before many other prairie species, Prairie Coreopsis is used by a wide range of pollinators. Its species name “*palmata*” comes from the Latin word *palmātus* meaning “hand-shaped”, referring to its lobed leaves. These leaves help distinguish this coreopsis from other members of the same genus. It is a hearty herbaceous perennial, tolerating full sun to partial shade, and dry soils. It is planted in a wide range of conditions including prairie restorations, stabilization projects and the side slopes of stormwater plantings.

Identification

Prairie Coreopsis grows up to two and a half feet tall and has green stems that are smooth except for tufts of hair at the leaf-nodes. Its opposite leaves lack teeth and are smooth, and are either lobed or unlobed in the uppermost part of the plant. Lobed leaves have light green

veins that run centrally down each of the three lobes, diverging at approximately 60 degree angles. Like other species in the Aster Family the flowers are made up of ray and disk flowers. Eight to twelve yellow, petal-like ray flowers surround a yellow center of disc florets that turn brownish-yellow as the flower ages. Overall, flower heads are typically between 1 ½ to two inches across.



Range based on University of MN Herbarium data

Range

Prairie Coreopsis is native to the central United States and is found in most counties of Minnesota in the lower half of the state. It is found in well drained prairies, woodland savannas, and open fields.

Uses

Due to their upright stems and multiple showy blooms, Prairie Coreopsis flowers are popular as a cut stem for floral arrangements and it is commonly planted in native gardens. Many insects are attracted to the abundant and accessible flowers including several types of bees (digger bees, cuckoo bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, and dagger bees), butterflies, skippers, moths, and beetles. *Melissodes coreopsis* is a digger bee that exclusively collects nectar and pollen from *Coreopsis* spp..

Primary Uses:

- Pollinator nectar/pollen source
- Soil stabilization
- Cut stem flowers



Clump of Prairie Coreopsis

Image by G. D. Bebeau, *Friends of the Wild Flower Garden*

Planting Recommendations

Seeds are best planted in fall or early winter where cycles of freezing and thawing will help break their seed coat and lead to germination in the spring.

Established plants will self-propagate by rhizomes and self-seeding. The species can also be propagated in the spring by separating and transplanting clumps.

Planting Methods

- Seed
- Transplanting
- Containerized Plants

Similar Species

Smooth Oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) flowers have 10 to 18 yellow ray flowers surrounding a yellow to brownish disc floret that is often cone-shaped. The leaves are not lobed, and are often triangular in shape and serrated along the edges. The species grows relatively tall, up to five feet. It is found throughout Minnesota in upland areas.

Lance-leaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), also called Sand Coreopsis, is found throughout Minnesota, but is not native to the state. The flowers are two to three inches across with about eight ray florets surrounding a dense head of



Lance-leaf Coreopsis (*not native to Minnesota*)

yellow disc florets. The ray florets have four lobes, creating a jagged appearance to the edge of the flower head. The leaves may be lobed or un-lobed and are typically lance shaped and hairy.

References

www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/, <http://grownative.org>, <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info>, <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info>, <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>, <https://plants.usda.gov>, <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

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