

Coreopsis palmata* – *Coreopsis*, *Prairie Tickseed

COMMON NAME: Prairie Tickseed, *Coreopsis*

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Coreopsis palmata* – The name comes from Greek and refers to the seeds appearing like a bug. *Palmata* is in reference to the leaves looking like fingers of a hand.

FLOWER: Golden yellow

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late June, through most of July and into August. Deadheading can extend the blooming period.

SIZE: The plant is between 1 and 2 feet tall, with individual blossoms 2 or so inches across.

BEHAVIOR: This plant spreads easily from rhizomes as well as seeds.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows best in poorer soils, sand or gravel in full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Central U.S. from Indiana northwest to Minnesota and South Dakota, south to Missouri and Oklahoma. In Wisconsin it is mostly found in the southern and western part of the state, especially on medium to dry prairie remnants.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Although not a large plant, the flowers are very attractive. The origin of the name “tickseed” is because the seeds look a bit like ticks .

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well to establish new plants. After that little care is needed if planted on poorer soils. It may need thinning if the soil is rich.

COMPANION PLANTS: On sandy sites it may be found with flowering spurge, round-headed bushclover, rough blazingstar, downy phlox, starry Solomon’s plume, needle grass and spiderwort. On moderately dry prairies companion plants include little bluestem, heath and smooth asters, yellow coneflower, prairie dock and stiff goldenrod. On gravelly hillside prairies it fits well with leadplant, purple prairie clover, prairie dropseed and golden Alexanders.