

## ***Plant of the Month*** ***February 2006***



### **Coreopsis (Tickseed)**

Coreopsis (or Tickseed) is among the most useful and colorful of the native perennials for our area and is a must for all gardens. This cheery flower has a wide variety of uses not only in the landscape, but has other uses as well and requires little maintenance.

The popular perennial forms a clump 1½' to 4' in height. It forms daisy-like flowers, 2"-3" in diameter, which are yellow to deep gold and may be single or double. While there are a few which have pink blooms, yellow is the most commonly grown color. It is a fast grower that blooms from June to September and is best grown in Sunset zones 1 – 24.

Coreopsis can tolerate soil of low fertility and withstand intense heat, but as with all low water use plants, it does well with moderate deep watering once it is established.

A relative of the sunflower, it would be attractive in planting with other low water use plants such as salvia, lavender, balloon flowers, liatris, and red hot poker, Echinacea, gaillardia and Shasta daisies.

Coreopsis attracts bees and butterflies and would be an excellent addition to the habitat garden.

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