

prairie coreopsis *Coreopsis palmata*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Asterales

Family: Asteraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Prairie coreopsis is also known as stiff coreopsis or stiff tickseed. This perennial herb has stiff, three-lobed leaves that resemble a bird's foot. The leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. Each sessile leaf may be up to three inches long. Flower heads are one to two inches wide. Both disk (fertile) and ray (sterile) flowers are present. The eight, bright yellow rays are each toothed at the tip. The one-seeded fruit is dry and hard. Prairie coreopsis may attain a height of one to three feet.

BEHAVIORS

Prairie coreopsis may be found statewide in Illinois, although it is more commonly seen in the northern two-thirds of the state. It grows in dry and moist prairies and open woods. Flowers are produced from June through July. The flowers can be used to produce a yellow dye for wool. The fruits are used by some wildlife species as a source of food.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; peatlands; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie

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