

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month

MARCH 2016

NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

REEDY CREEK NATURE PRESERVE



Photos by Will Stuart and Beth Davis

Coreopsis auriculata Lobed Tickseed

Leaves like ears

Auriculata means “eared” in reference to the ear-like lobes at the base of many of the leaves. Small children will have fun looking for baby “ears” on each leafy plant.

In addition, *Coreopsis* species are more commonly referred to as Tickseed because the small black seeds resemble ticks in shape. Birds love these seeds and will visit your garden in early summer to feast on a *Coreopsis* buffet.

Landscape Needs

Coreopsis auriculata ranges 12-18” high. The best cultivar is a dwarf selection, ‘Nana’ which blooms heavily in spring and is a small clump about 6” tall. The foliage is semi-evergreen and will grace your garden into late fall.

Most *Coreopsis* thrive in light shade to part sun. *Coreopsis auriculata* prefers

moist well-drained soils, out of reach of the hot baking afternoon sun.

Coreopsis auriculata can be used as a ground cover or edger along a path. It tucks sweetly among rocks in a rock garden. The small mounding

Try native plants in a pot

Lobed Tickseed, Purple Coneflowers, and Black-eyed Susans are easy to grow in pots if you have limited garden space. They mix well with herbs such as parsley, dill and fennel, all of which are food plants for black swallowtail caterpillars (if you can share). Chives and mint attract pollinators such as bees and smaller butterflies including coppers, hairstreaks and blues.

plants are a favorite for gardeners. And *Coreopsis auriculata* also does well in pots on your deck or patio if you have hungry “bunny issues.”

Try a variety of *Coreopsis*

Many varieties of *Coreopsis* are easy to grow from seed or easy to find at area nurseries including:

- *Coreopsis lanceolata* Longstalk Tickseed to 2’ tall, sun to part shade, average-dry
- *Coreopsis major* Woodland Coreopsis 1-3’ tall, adaptable to the dryish sunny woodland garden
- *Coreopsis rosea* Pink Coreopsis is about 1’ tall and prefers sandy wet soils
- *Coreopsis verticillata* Threadleaf Tickseed, 1’ tall with fine leaves and pale light yellow blooms, sun to part-shade, average-dry

Companion Plants

Coreopsis would look right at home in a part sun border with Wild Red Columbine, Small’s Penstemon, Stokes Aster, and Spigelia.

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month is a joint effort of the NC Native Plant Society and Audubon North Carolina.

