



Spanish needles, also often known as beggar’s tick is an often unappreciated native plant. This upright herbaceous annual may grow to three feet tall with an equal spread. Initially, the serrate, elliptic leaves are simple but later become odd pinnately compound. Can be found blooming most of the year in Florida from March through October.

Spanish needles will grow in a range of habitats, particularly disturbed areas, wetlands, grasslands, roadsides, ditches and agricultural production areas. Once established they can handle droughty conditions well and reseed profusely.

Blooms are highly visited by a range of pollinators and butterflies, even though flowers are self-pollinating. Spanish needles are also a larval host plant for the dainty sulphur, *Nathalis iole*. Very often considered a nuisance weed due to the habit of its seeds attached to fur and clothing. See below reading for guidance on control.

Growth Form	Upright herbaceous annual
Growth Rate	Rapid
Potential Size	Height: 1 - 3 ft. Spread: 1 - 2 ft.
Leaves	Serrate, elliptic Lower leaves simple Upper leaves odd pinnately compound with 1-3 pairs of pinna
Flowers	Flowers in terminal heads Normally 5 white ray florets Many yellow, tubular disc florets Bloom March-October
Fruit	Dark brown achene single-seeded Two barbs that attach readily to passing objects



### Additional Reading

Biology and Management of Spanish Needles (*Bidens* spp.) in Ornamental Crop Production: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep572>

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