**Garberia heterophylla Garberia**

Edward F. Gilman

**Introduction**

This low shrub is native to Florida and attains a height of 4 to 8 feet (Fig. 1). It is also known as *Garberia fruticosa*. Garberia has dull grayish, viscid foliage that is quite distinctive. The obovate leaves are alternately arranged on the stems and are held vertically. The showy, late season flowers appear in terminal corymbs of lavender pink heads and are followed by small inconspicuous fruits; the fruits are achenes. Flowers literally cover the plant. Garberia is an attractive plant useful for planting alone as a specimen or in groups to mass its colorful show in late summer and fall.

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** *Garberia heterophylla*
- **Pronunciation:** gar-BEER-ee-uh het-tur-roh-FIL-lu
- **Common name(s):** Garberia
- **Family:** *Compositae*
- **Plant type:** shrub
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 9 through 10A (Fig. 2)
- **Planting month for zone 9:** year round
- **Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round
- **Origin:** native to Florida
- **Uses:** attracts butterflies; reclamation plant; border; mass planting
Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 4 to 8 feet
Spread: 6 to 8 feet
Plant habit: round
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: slow
Texture: fine

Folliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: obovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: blue or blue-green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: lavender pink
Flower characteristic: fall flowering; showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: irregular
Fruit length: less than .5 inch
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy
Garberia heterophylla Garberia

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multitrunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

Garberia is native to the sand ridges and hills of central and northeast peninsular Florida. This plant should be placed in a site which receives full sun. It tolerates drought but prefers acid soils.

Pest and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.