

Garberia heterophylla *Garberia*¹

Edward F. Gilman²

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.

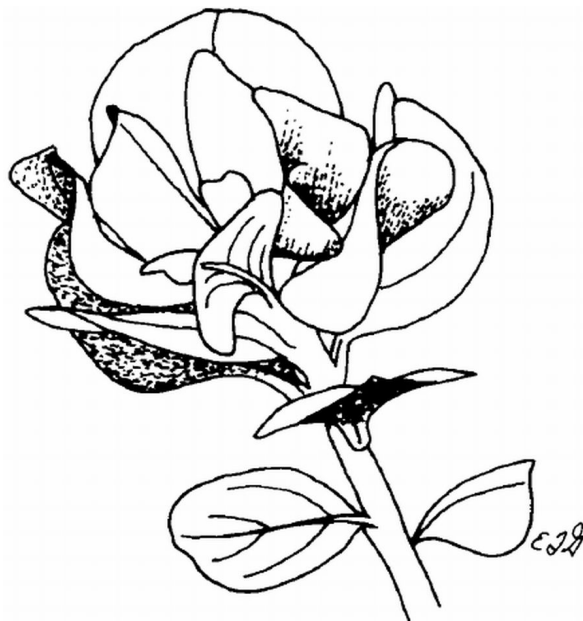


Figure 1. *Gaberia*.

General Information

Scientific name: *Garberia heterophylla*

Pronunciation: gar-BEER-ee-uh het-tur-roe-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

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-221 one of a series of the Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date October, 1999. Revised May, 2007. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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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

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

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: obovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Fruit

Fruit shape: irregular

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

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.