Introduction

Globe Amaranth produces small, globe-shaped flowers in shades of purple, pink, yellow or white (Fig. 1). The purple form is most common in retail nurseries. Most horticulturists utilize Globe Amaranth in a mass planting spacing them 12 to 18 inches apart. Others use them as small specimens in rock gardens or plant them in containers. They are also attractive planted in a row along a walk or patio as an edging plant. Flowers can be dried for indoor use if cut just before they are fully opened. The plant grows 18 inches tall, and prefers full sun, and a moderately dry soil. Globe Amaranth is resistant to heat and should not be over watered. It provides bright color to a garden or landscape where irrigation will be limited.

General Information

**Scientific name:** *Gomphrena globosa*

**Pronunciation:** gom-FREE-nuh gloe-BOE-suh

**Common name(s):** Globe Amaranth

**Family:** Amaranthaceae

**Plant type:** annual

**USDA hardiness zones:** all zones (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** Jun; Jul; Aug

**Planting month for zone 8:** May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep

**Planting month for zone 9:** Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep

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Gomphrena globosa Globe Amarantha

Fig. 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** border; edging; mass planting

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

**Description**

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** .5 to 1 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** oblong

**Leaf venation:** not applicable

**Leaf type and persistence:** not applicable

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** not applicable

**Fall characteristic:** not applicable

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white; pink; purple; yellow

**Flower characteristic:** showy

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** no fruit

**Fruit length:** no fruit

**Fruit cover:** no fruit

**Fruit color:** not applicable

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Gomphrena globosa Globe Amarantha

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam; clay;

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: not applicable

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Propagation is by seed planted directly into the garden or started early indoors.

Pest and Diseases

Globe Amaranth is free of most pest and disease problems.