

***Gomphrena globosa* Globe Amarantha¹**

Edward F. Gilman, Teresa Howe²

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.



Figure 1. Globe Amaranth

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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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Teresa How, coordinator - Research Programs/Services, Gulf Coast REC, Bradenton, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611

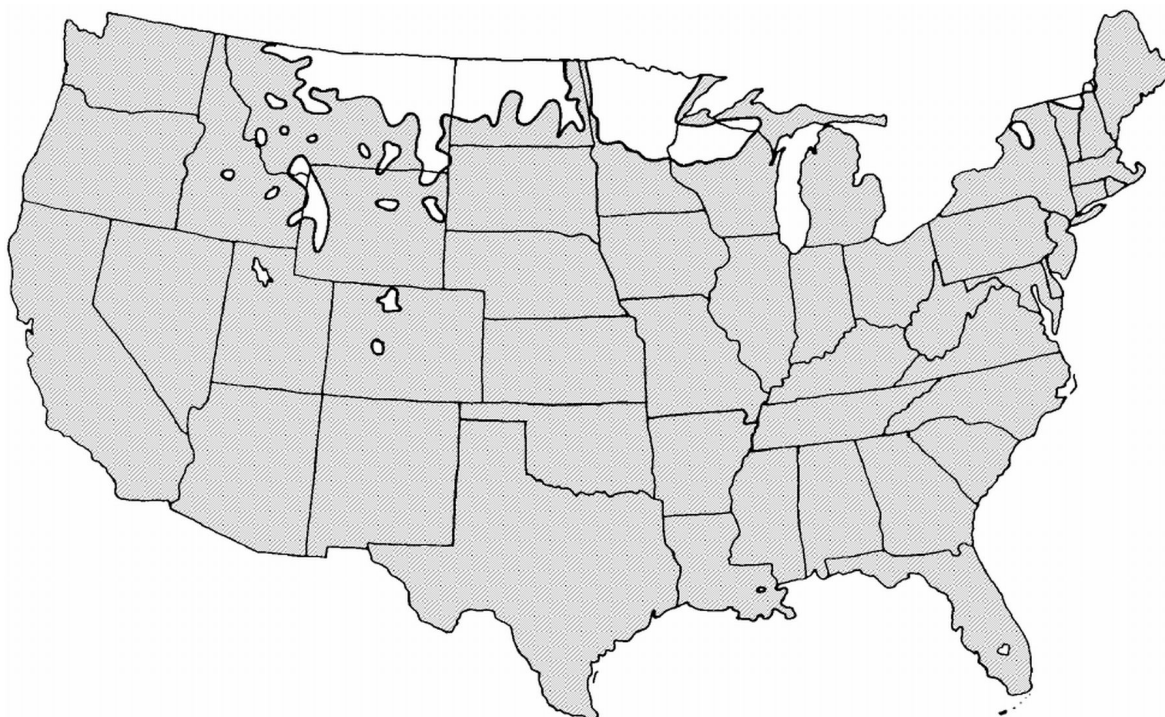


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: border; edging; mass planting

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

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

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

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

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.