



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Garberia heterophylla*<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### 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-roe-FIL-luh

**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

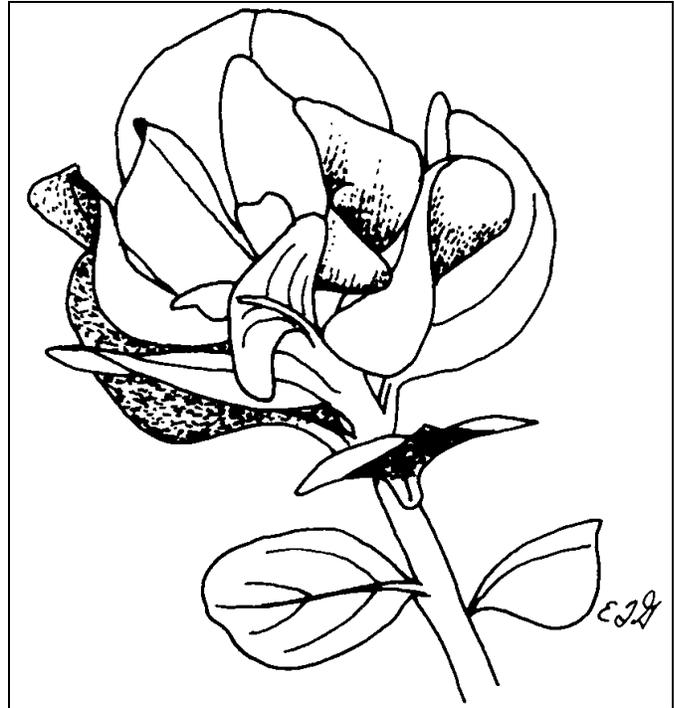


Figure 1. *Garberia*.

### Description

**Height:** 4 to 8 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 8 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-221, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- 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

**Trunk and Branches**

- Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked 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.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern.