



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Gaura lindheimeri*¹

Edward F. Gilman, David Marshall²

Introduction

Gaura lindheimeri is a fine-textured, vase-shaped, 18-to 36-inch-tall perennial with wand-like flowering stalks that grow 5 feet tall (Fig. 1). The light green leaves are 1 ½ to 3 inches long. Pinkish white flowers occur in spikes that continue to elongate during the bloom period with only a few flowers in bloom at the same time. The older flowers drop off the spike and are replaced by new ones throughout the long blooming season (spring, summer and fall). Though not a spectacular plant, the delicate flowers on long stems add a light airy look to the perennial border. *Gaura* may also be used as a specimen plant in a small garden.

General Information

Scientific name: *Gaura lindheimeri*

Pronunciation: GAR-ruh lind-HYE-mur-eye

Common name(s): *Gaura*

Family: *Onagraceae*

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 6 through 9 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: May; Jun

Planting month for zone 8: Apr; May

Planting month for zone 9: Mar; Apr

Origin: native to North America

Uses: specimen; mass planting; border

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

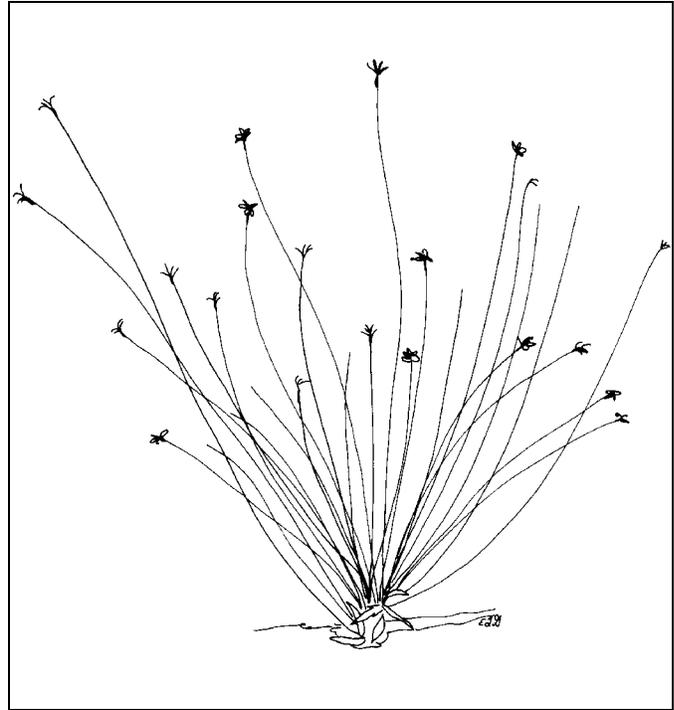


Figure 1. *Gaura*.

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: round; spreading

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-224, 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, David Marshall, agricultural extension agent and program leader, Leon County, 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:** lanceolate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** not applicable
- Fall characteristic:** not applicable

Flower

- Flower color:** pink white
- Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** unknown
- Fruit length:** unknown
- Fruit cover:** unknown
- Fruit color:** unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** green
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun
- Soil tolerances:** acidic; sand; loam; clay;
- Drought tolerance:** high
- Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

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

Gaura requires full sun to partial shade and a well-drained soil. Do not move this perennial once it is planted; Gaura has a deep carrot-like root that does not transplant well. Gaura's long tap root allows it to survive drought situations.

Gaura lindheimeri is easily propagated by seed.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

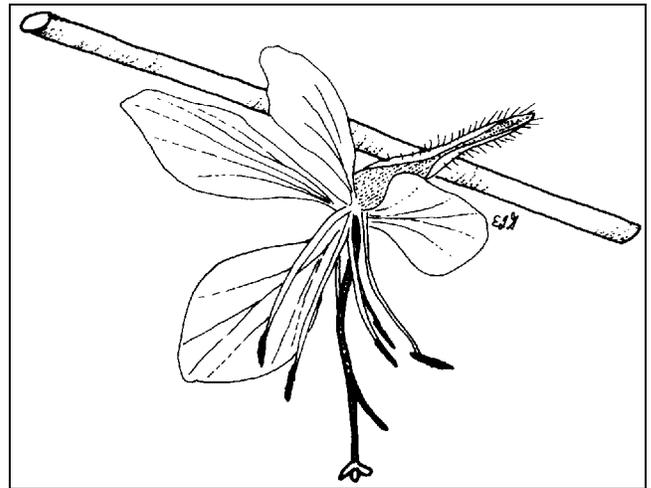


Figure 3. Flower of Gaura