**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.

**Garberia heterophylla**

Edward F. Gilman

**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

**Description**

Height: 4 to 8 feet

Spread: 6 to 8 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

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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.

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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

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.