



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Garberia heterophylla¹

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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

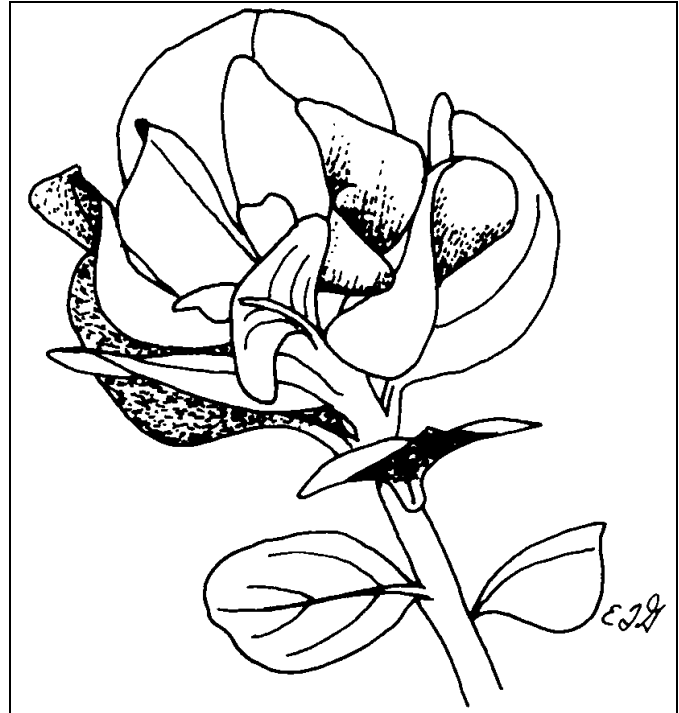


Figure 1. *Garberia*.

Description

Height: 4 to 8 feet

Spread: 6 to 8 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

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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

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.