Gomphrena globosa

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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.

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

Origin: not native to North America
Uses: border; edging; mass planting
Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet
Spread: .5 to 1 feet
Plant habit: round
Plant density: dense
Growth rate: slow
Texture: medium

Figure 1. Globe Amaranth.
Gomphrena globosa -- Globe Amaranth

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** entire  
**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

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

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Use and Management

Propagation is by seed planted directly into the garden or started early indoors.

Pests and Diseases

Globe Amaranth is free of most pest and disease problems.