



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Sanvatalia procumbens*¹

Edward F. Gilman, Teresa Howe²

Introduction

A native of Mexico, Creeping Zinnia is an annual vine-like plant suited as a ground cover or in a hanging basket (Fig. 1). It flowers from spring into the summer in the southeastern part of the country, but may suffer in the heat in the warmest parts of central Florida. It is considered tolerant of heat and drought, an unusual attribute for many other annuals. The cultivar 'Mandarin Orange' was a 1987 All American Selection winner, and was the first orange flowered *Sanvatalia*.

General Information

Scientific name: *Sanvatalia procumbens*

Pronunciation: san-vit-TAIL-lee-uh pro-KUM-benz

Common name(s): Creeping Zinnia, Trailing *Sanvatalia*

Family: *Compositae*

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Nov; Dec

Origin: native to North America

Uses: hanging basket; cascading down a wall; mass planting

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: .5 to 1 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

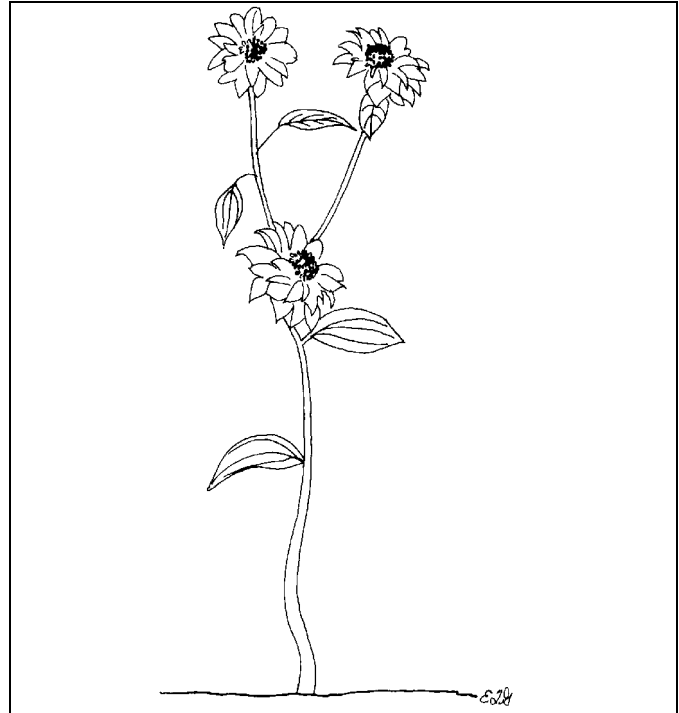


Figure 1. Creeping Zinnia.

Plant habit: round; spreading

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Teresa Howe, coordinator - Research Programs/Services, Gulf Coast REC, Bradenton, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: ovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: 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; slightly alkaline; sand; clay; loam;
Drought tolerance: high
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: not applicable
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

Plant in the full sun for best flowering.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are considered important.