



Know What You Grow!



Blanket Flower

Scientific Name: *Gaillardias spp.*

Recommended Varieties:

- G 'Arizona Sun'
- G 'Burgundy'
- G 'Goblin'

Pests/Diseases:

Blanket flower plants are usually problem-free, but they are susceptible to aster yellows, a virus-like disease that can stunt their growth and cause the flowers to be green. Plants that do get aster yellows should be destroyed.

[The Spruce](#)

Growing Information

Perennial

These short-lived perennials are usually planted from nursery starts, but they also grow easily from seeds planted directly in the garden after the last frost date (or started indoors about 4 to 6 weeks early).

Ideal Planting Window

Inland Valley – Early Spring

Desert – Plant or sow in fall for the best results the following year.

Growing Guidance

Blanket flowers are fairly foolproof if planted in any well-drained soil in a full-sun location. Avoid over watering and fertilization.

[Desert Sun](#)

Photos: Creative Commons

Further Information: [The Spruce](#)



Fun Flower Facts

Blanket Flower is a genus of [drought](#) tolerant annual and perennial plants from the sunflower family ([Asteraceae](#)), native to North America. It was named after Gaillard de Charentonneau, an 18th century French magistrate who was a patron of [botany](#).

The genus Gaillardia has two native wildflower species that share bees and butterflies under the common name, blanket flower. It was derived from the resemblance of bright red and yellow flowers to colorful blankets woven by the Pueblo tribes. Others say it was so abundant that pioneers named it for covering huge expanses of ground with dense color, like a blanket.

Gaillardia aristata is found in the northern states from the Dakotas to Oregon and into Canada. Gaillardia pulchella is a southern species that ranges from Florida to New Mexico and Colorado.

The [school colors](#) of [Texas State University](#) are maroon and old gold, a combinations inspired by the gaillardia.

The flower can reseed and sprawl through the garden. Since the original plants are hybrids, expect some variation from self-seeding.

[Kids Kiddle](#)

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Pollinators/Beneficial Insects

This colorful plant is much loved by a diversity of bees including green metallic sweat bees (*Agapostemon* spp.), bumble bees, and others who are drawn to the brightly colored flowers. The plant also happens to be a food source for caterpillars of the brilliantly colored gaillardia flower moth (*Schinia masoni*) and painted schinia (*S. volupia*), butterflies with wing patterns and colors that mimic blanket flower's petals.



[Xerces](#)
[Wikipedia](#)
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Contact Information



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Suggested Uses

The daisy like flowers are great for a cutting garden. Blanket flowers can easily be [dried with borax](#) to use in dried flower arrangements indoors.

Companion Plant For:

There are many options. Plant blanket flowers with [Shasta daisies](#), [echinacea](#), garden phlox and black eyed Susans. Taller plants that love the sun, such as [foxgloves](#) and [hollyhocks](#) will also look nice growing near gaillardia. Ornamental grasses that love are sun lovers also look great with blanket flowers.

[The Gardening Cook](#)