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## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH403



### GAILLARDIA

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Blanket flower
- Scientific name: *Gaillardia grandiflora*
- Named after a French patron of botany
- Short lived perennial growing 2-3 feet tall
- Brilliant, daisy like flowers appear in summer
- Rose-purple flower centers are surrounded by yellow, orange, or crimson petals
- Hardy in zones 5-10
- More than two dozen species in genus *Gaillardia*

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows best in full sun

- Requires well drained soil
- Drought tolerant; will flower even in sands found along a seashore
- Plants should be divided and replanted every two to three years

#### PROPAGATION

- Easily grown from seed
- Seeds can be sown outdoors in spring or early summer; flowers will develop the first year
- Germination requires 5-15 days
- Space plants 15-18 inches apart
- Can be propagated by root cuttings or division
- The best time to divide is August or September

#### DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
  - White coating on leaves
  - Leaves wilt, brown, and drop
  - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Leaf spot (*Septoria*)
  - Small, dark brown lesions appear on leaves
  - Remove infected leaves
- Leaf smut (*Entyloma*)
  - Small black spots appear on leaves
  - Remove infected foliage
- Impatiens necrotic spot virus
  - Dark purple spots appear on leaves
  - Remove and destroy affected plants
- Aster yellows
  - Flower parts develop into leafy structures
  - Remove infected plants
- Root rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*)
  - Leaves turn yellow
  - Provide good soil aeration and drainage
  - Remove infected plants

### CONSUMER CARE

- Remove spent flowers to prolong the blooming season
- Taller varieties require staking
- Excellent choice for a butterfly garden

- Cut flowers last about a week in water

### CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Gaillardia*
  - ‘Arizona Sun’: orange-red, yellow tipped flowers
  - ‘Bijou’: orange-red, yellow tipped flowers; dwarf variety
  - ‘Fanfare’: scarlet flowers with yellow ends
  - ‘Goblin’: red flowers with yellow margins
  - ‘Golden Goblin’: golden yellow flowers
  - ‘Summer’s Kiss’: soft apricot-gold flowers
- *Gaillardia aristata*
  - ‘Oranges and Lemons’: orange flowers with yellow tips and a gold cone
- *Gaillardia grandiflora*
  - ‘Burgundy’: large burgundy flowers

### References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaillardia>  
<http://www.floridata.com/ref/G/gaillad.cfm>  
<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/Gaillardia.htm>

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