



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Gaillardia pulchella

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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Common name

Indian blanket, Firewheel

Range

Throughout Texas. Another species, *Gaillardia amblyodon*, is an annual which is closely related to *G. pulchella* and probably does not deserve separate status. *G. amblyodon* grows in sandy prairies and open woods in southeast Texas and the northern portion of the Rio Grande plains. These two species are the only annual Gaillardias in Texas--all others are perennial.

Life cycle

Annual

Bloom period

May - July. May flower longer if rains are plentiful.

Soil preferences

Varies widely

Exposure

Sun to partial shade

Propagation

G. pulchella is one of the easiest wildflowers to establish. It can be started indoors in late winter and then transplanted outdoors after the danger of frost is past when the plants have developed adequate roots (about eight weeks). Seeds can also be directly planted in the fall. Although Indian blanket will grow in a variety of soil types, for best results, choose an open-to-lightly shaded site having loose, well-drained soil. Plant by raking the seed into loose topsoil to ensure good seed/soil contact. With moisture from rain or watering, *G. pulchella* will germinate in 1 - 2 weeks and establish a healthy taproot system before the winter frost.

Seeding rate

Seed at 10 pounds per acre



Maintenance

After flowering ceases, allow seeds to completely mature before mowing for reseeding or collecting to plant in a new area. Since *G. pulchella* is an annual, it is essential that this species be allowed to reseed for an abundant display the following year.

Miscellaneous

G. pulchella frequently exhibits blanket-like density, which combines with the blending of bright reds and yellows to form a striking tapestry of color.