Wedelia trilobata Wedelia
Edward F. Gilman

Introduction
It would be hard to find another groundcover better suited to hot, dry conditions than wedelia (Fig. 1). Attractive, glossy, dark green, lobed leaves, rapidly spreading growth habit, and a continuous display of small, bright yellow, daisy-like blooms create a much-favored landscape plant.

General Information
Scientific name: Wedelia trilobata
Pronunciation: wee-DEEL-lee-uh try-loe-BAY-tuh
Common name(s): wedelia
Family: Compositae
Plant type: perennial; herbaceous
USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 8: year round
Planting month for zone 9: year round
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America
Uses: mass planting; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; hanging basket; cascading down a wall
Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description
Height: .5 to 1 feet
Spread: depends upon supporting structure
Plant habit: upright
Plant density: dense
Growth rate: fast
Texture: medium

Foliage
Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite
Leaf type: simple

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**Leaf margin:** serrate; lobed  
**Leaf shape:** obovate  
**Leaf venation:** bowed; brachidodrome  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy  

**Flower**  
**Flower color:** yellow  
**Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering  

**Fruit**  
**Fruit shape:** elongated  
**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch  
**Fruit cover:** dry or hard  
**Fruit color:** brown  
**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 part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** extended flooding; alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** good  
**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches  

**Other**  
**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** potentially invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests  

**Use and Management**  
Suitied to a wide variety of conditions, wedelia will cover rough, rocky ground or wet drainage ditches, and even tolerates some degree of foot traffic. Producing the most bloom in full sun, frost-free locations, wedelia will grow in shade and still bloom, although only sparsely. Though killed to the ground by frost, wedelia’s rapid growth quickly returns with warm weather (in the northern part of USDA hardiness zone 9), the long, creeping stems rooting wherever they touch moist soil. Set the plants on 18-inch centers. Creating a dense mat of foliage, wedelia rarely needs pruning to control its height but can tolerate severe trimming, even occasional mowing on a high setting, if plants need to be rejuvenated.  

Wedelia has a vine-like habit and will grow up into shrubs and trees planted in the bed. When used as a groundcover in and among shrubs, it is a high maintenance plant. It looks best planted in a mass over large areas. Like ivy and other creepers, it will require regular trimming along the edge of the groundcover bed to control its spread. It may be best used as a container plant where it will cascade over the side forming a weeping mound of yellow flowers. It has escaped cultivation in certain regions of south Florida where it proliferates, especially in wet areas.  

Propagation is easily accomplished by setting unrooted tip cuttings in the landscape soil where new plants are wanted, or by layering, the stems rooting quickly.  

**Pests and Diseases**  
Though relatively sturdy, wedelia can occasionally be infected with chewing insects and mites.  

No diseases are of major concern.