

# *Garberia heterophylla* Garberia<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

This low shrub is native to Florida and attains a height of 4 to 8 feet. It is also known as *Garberia fruticosa*. *Garberia* has dull grayish, viscid foliage that is quite distinctive. The obovate leaves are alternately arranged on the stems and are held vertically. The showy, late season flowers appear in terminal corymbs of lavender pink heads and are followed by small inconspicuous fruits; the fruits are achenes. Flowers literally cover the plant. *Garberia* is an attractive plant useful for planting alone as a specimen or in groups for its colorful show in late summer and fall.



Figure 1. Leaf - *Garberia heterophylla*: *Garberia*  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Garberia heterophylla*

**Pronunciation:** gar-BEER-ee-uh het-tur-roe-FIL-lu

**Common name(s):** garberia

**Family:** *Asteraceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9 through 10A (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor emeritus; Ryan W. Klein, assistant professor, arboriculture; and Gail Hansen, professor, sustainable landscape design; Department of Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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**Origin:** native to Florida

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Uses:** attracts butterflies; reclamation plant; border; mass planting

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

## Description

**Height:** 4 to 8 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 8 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** obovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** blue or blue-green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** lavender pink

**Flower characteristic:** fall flowering; showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** irregular

**Fruit length:** less than 0.5 inch

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** brown

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; sand; loam

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

## Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

Garberia is native to the sand ridges and hills of central and northeast peninsular Florida. This plant should be placed in a site which receives full sun. It tolerates drought but prefers acidic soils.

## Pest and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.