

# Gomphrena globosa Common Globe Amaranth<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Common globe amaranth produces small, globe-shaped flowers in shades of purple, pink, yellow, or white. The purple form is most common in retail nurseries. Most horticulturists utilize common globe amaranth in a mass planting spacing them 12 to 18 inches apart. Others use them as small specimens in rock gardens or plant them in containers. They are also attractive planted in a row along a walk or patio as an edging plant. Flowers can be dried for indoor use if cut just before they are fully opened. The plant grows 18 inches tall and prefers full sun and a moderately dry soil. Common globe amaranth is resistant to heat and should not be over watered. It provides bright color to a garden or landscape where irrigation will be limited.



Figure 1. Full Form - *Gomphrena globosa*: Common globe amaranth.  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Gomphrena globosa*

**Pronunciation:** gom-FREE-nuh gloe-BOE-suh

**Common name(s):** common globe amaranth

**Family:** *Amaranthaceae*

**Plant type:** annual

**USDA hardiness zones:** all zones (Figure 2)

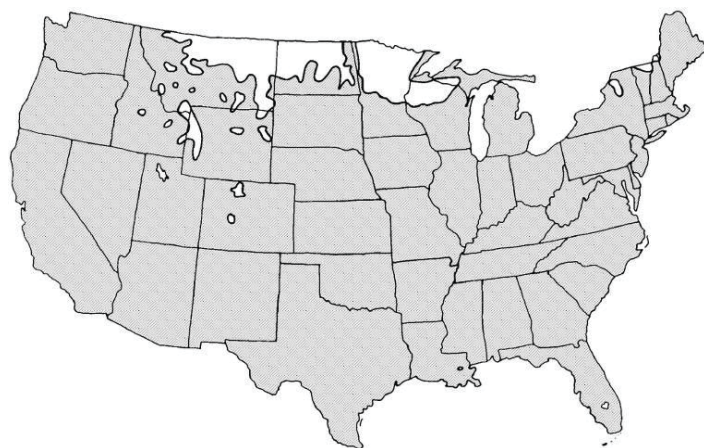


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Planting month for zone 7:** Jun; Jul; Aug

**Planting month for zone 8:** May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep

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**Planting month for zone 9:** Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep

**Origin:** native to Africa, Central America, Mexico, North America, Pacific, South America, and temperate and tropical Asia

**Invasive potential:** not considered a problem species at this time and may be recommended by UF/IFAS faculty (reassess in 10 years)

**Uses:** border; edging; mass planting

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

## Description

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 0.5 to 1 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** oblong

**Leaf venation:** not applicable

**Leaf type and persistence:** not applicable

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** not applicable

**Fall characteristic:** not applicable

## Flower

**Flower color:** white; pink; purple; yellow

**Flower characteristic:** showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** no fruit

**Fruit length:** no fruit

**Fruit cover:** no fruit

**Fruit color:** not applicable

**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 full sun

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

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** not applicable

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## Use and Management

Propagation is by seed planted directly into the garden or started early indoors.

## Pest and Diseases

Common globe amaranth is free of most pest and disease problems.