



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Blanketflower

*Gaillardia* species

**DESCRIPTION:** Blanketflowers are a widespread group of perennial wildflowers in the sunflower family. *Gaillardia* species are native to the crescent of dry grasslands that stretch from the prairie provinces of Canada to Arizona, and into Mexico, at elevations under 9,000 ft. *Gaillardia grandiflora* is a hybrid created by crossing *G. aristata* and *G. pulchella*, both found in our region. This hybrid differs from the native species by having more desirable garden habits, including a larger, more long-lived flower and a longer blooming period. This plant grows up to a foot and a half tall when grown in our area. It frequently forms dense mounds of brilliant yellow, crimson and orange-banded flowers. This pattern gives the three-colored "blanket" effect. These large, showy flowers can be up to 4" across and are borne in profusion over a long period (May through September) making it very nice in flower gardens. It is easily established from seed and re-grows from the old root stock.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** A beautiful plant for borders, rock gardens, or patio gardens. It makes an excellent cut flower with a vase life of 6 to 10 days.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Very hardy.



**Sun tolerance:** Thrives in full sun, but will take light shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Even though it is somewhat drought tolerant, Blanketflower needs regular watering to look its best and bloom well.



**Soil requirements:** Plant in loose, well-drained areas.



**Pruning:** It can be weedy if allowed to produce mature seed. If this is not desired, clip heads off after flowering.