

Gaillardia F1 Finest Mixed - Seeds - buy 1 get 1 free



1 packet contains Gaillardia F1 Finest Mixed - 50 Seeds

Rating: Not Rated Yet

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Sales price R 125

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Description Produced above a clump of hairy, narrow, gray-green leaves, the blossoms of perennial blanket flower have petals that may be solid colored shades of yellow, wine red , orange or peach, or may be banded in combinations of red or orange with yellow. The petals of some are frilled, while others have a unique, tubular shape. Sizes range from 10-12 inch high dwarfs to selections as tall as 24-30 inches. All are easy care plants with few insect or disease problems and most are hardy in zones 3-9.

There is also an annual blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*) that is easy to grow from seed. Start seeds early indoors 4-6 weeks before the last spring frost, transplanting to the garden when the weather has warmed. In warm-winter areas, sow seeds directly in late fall or very early spring. Varieties are available with single, double and semi-double flowers.

Common name: blanket flowers

Color: Solid colored shades of yellow, wine red , orange or peach, or may be banded in combinations of red or orange with yellow

Bloom time: Summer to Fall

Height: 18" -36"

Difficulty level: Easy

Planting & Care

Container grown plants can be set out throughout the growing season, but spring or fall planting is ideal. Space dwarf cultivars about a foot apart; taller varieties should be set about 18 inches apart. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in.

Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Carefully fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.

Sunlight: Full sun

Soil: They prefer loose, sandy soil that isn't overly fertile with a pH near neutral or slightly alkaline.

Water: Water newly set out or divided plants regularly until they become established.

Fertilizer: Fertilize the seedling every 10 to 14 days with a 10-10-10 nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium water-soluble fertilizer. Mix 1/2 teaspoon fertilizer with 1 gallon water. Apply the fertilizer in place of a watering.

Care:

- Plant Propagation: Blanketflower are grown from seeds.
- Sow seeds directly into your flower garden, or start seeds indoors, for transplanting later.
- We recommend a heated germination mat for indoor starts.
- If you live in a warmer climate, you can plant them in the fall, and they will likely bloom the first spring.
- For colder areas, expect a bloom in the second spring.
- Sow Blanketflower seeds early in the season and cover lightly with 1/8" of fine garden or potting soil.
- Or, broadcast spread them over an area, and lightly rake them into the soil.
- Seeds can take up to 3 weeks to sprout.
- Ideal plant spacing is 14" -16".
- Thin or transplant seedlings, if needed, when they reach 2".
- They will tolerate a little crowding.
- Blanketflower can also be propagated by plant division.
- Days to Germination: 14 - 21 How to Grow Blanketflower: Blanketflower are very easy to grow.
- They like full sun.
- They prefer loose soil that drains well.
- Add a general purpose fertilizer when planting them, then once a month after that.
- Once your Blanketflower are established, they should grow well with few problems.
- They will grow on their own with little care or attention.
- Just make sure to view them often to enjoy their brilliant blooms.
- Or, watch butterflies that are attracted to them.
- While most varieties of Blanketflowers grow 2 - 3 , there are some 4 varieties.
- Taller varieties may need staking.
- These drought tolerant plants seldom need to be watered.
- They will do well in mid-summer s heat.
- Deadhead flowers to promote continuous blooms.
- For healthy, thriving plants, dig up and divide every 2 -3 years in early spring.

Care:

- Deadhead plants regularly to encourage more flowering.
- Blanket flowers are often relatively short-lived.
- Cutting back clumps to 6 inches in late summer often increases their chances of winter survival.
- You can also keep your plants vigorous by dividing them every 2-3 years in spring or early fall.
- Water newly set out or divided plants regularly until they become established.
- Blanket flowers have few insect or disease problems.
- Watch for aphids and leafhoppers that can spread a virus-like disease called aster yellows.
- Control insects with insecticidal soap, if needed, and destroy any plants that are stunted with flowers that remain green, as these are infected with aster yellows.

Use

Reference:

<http://www.garden.org/plantguide/?q=show&id=3347> <http://www.gardenersnet.com/flower/blanketflower.htm>