

Blanket Flower

Gaillardia aristata

At a Glance

Height: 12 to 24 inches tall

Bloom Colors: Red, orange, and yellow bi-color daisy-like blooms

Bloom Time: Early summer through fall

Days to Maturity: Perennial, blooms first year from seed

Best For: Pollinator gardens, borders, and drought-tolerant landscapes

Growing Conditions Quick Reference

Soil Temperature: 65-75F for best germination

Soil Type: Well-drained, sandy or rocky soil

Light Requirements: Full sun

Planting Depth: Surface sow or lightly press seeds

Seeding Rate: Thin to 12-15 inches apart

Moisture Needs: Low; drought tolerant once established

Average Germination Time: 10-20 days

How to Grow

When to Plant: Direct sow in late spring or start indoors 6-8 weeks before last frost.

Location: Full sun with well-drained soil.

Spacing: Thin seedlings to 12-15 inches apart.

Watering: Low to moderate; avoid soggy soil.

Fertilizer: Minimal; too much fertilizer reduces blooms.

Tips for Success

Deadhead spent blooms to encourage more flowers.

Excellent for poor soils and low-water gardens.

Leave seed heads for winter interest or reseeding.

Divides easily after a few years.

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Fun Fact

Blanket Flowers are named for their colorful blooms that resemble traditional Native American blankets.

Companion Planting

Pairs well with coneflowers, coreopsis, and ornamental grasses for a natural prairie look.

Harvesting and Use

Cut fresh blooms for arrangements or leave to self-seed. Attracts butterflies and beneficial insects.

Quick Planting Checklist

- Direct sow after frost or start indoors
- Thin seedlings to 12-15 inches apart
- Provide full sun and low water
- Deadhead to extend blooming