

Blanket Flower

Blanket flowers (Gaillardia) thrive in full sun with well-drained soil and are drought-tolerant once established. They prefer a hot, dry climate and can be grown from seed or by dividing existing plants. While they don't require much care, regular watering is needed for establishment, and deadheading can promote more blooms. Perennial. Deer and rabbit resistant. Excellent addition to a pollinator garden!

Here's a more detailed guide:

Planting:

- **Sunlight:** Blanket flowers need at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight daily.
- **Soil:** Choose a sunny location with well-drained soil. They prefer sandy, fast-draining soils and don't do well in heavy clay.
- **Spacing:** 12 to 18 inches apart is ideal, but they can tolerate some crowding.
- **Seeds:** Sow seeds directly in the ground in spring or fall, or start them indoors 8 weeks before the last frost.
- **Division:** Divide existing plants in early spring.

Care:

- **Watering:** Water regularly when planting to help them establish, but once established, they are drought-tolerant.
- **Fertilizing:** They don't require much fertilization, and some sources advise against fertilizing altogether.
- **Pruning:** Deadheading spent flowers is not essential, but it can promote more blooms and keep the plant looking tidy.