

## **Maroon Blanketflower**

**Family** – Asteraceae (Aster family)

**Genus/Species** – Gaillardia amblyodon

**Pronunciation** – gah-LAR-dee-yah (am-bly-oh-don)

**Common Names** –Red Gaillardia, Red Indian Blanket.



Photo by Genie Lindberg



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**Plant Type** – Annual.

**Height** – 1 to 3' tall.

**Width** – 4' spread.

**Soil Type** – Well drained sand.

**Light** – Full sun.

**Dormant** – In winter.

**Moisture** – Low-Drought tolerant.

**Growth** – Fast growing.

**Bloom** –April to July.

**Colors** – Red or maroon and sometimes has a yellow scalloped edge.

**Form** – Grows upright in mounds.

**Pollination Source** – Bee, butterfly, airborne.

**Additional Description** - Good cut flower, considered the fragrant Gaillardia. It is endemic, but where it occurs it forms large masses, often covering many acres or miles.

**Leaves/Petal** - The leaves are slightly hairy with saw-toothed edges. They are approximately 1-3" long and 3/4" wide. Flower heads are up to 2" across. This is a ray flower with 10-20 petallike structures in the flower head. Each is 3-toothed at tip. The disk flowers are numerous and reddish brown. The heads are solitary, at the top of a leafy stalk.

**Maintenance** – None.

**Propagation** – Self-sows, air born and division of roots. If desired collect the dried heads, store them in paper bags, and toss in the desired area.

**Wildlife value** – These flowers are a nectar source for butterflies, caterpillar food and of special value to native bees.

**Diseases** – No disease.

**Pests** – None.

**Legends & Folklore** – Gaillardia plants were named after M. Gaillard de Charentonneau, an 18th-century French magistrate who was a patron of botany.

The common name of all Gaillardia species refers to its resemblance when in a large mass to the brightly patterned blankets made by Native Americans.

**USDA Native Status** –Native to US.



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