



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

PERENNIAL BLANKET FLOWER CARE

LIGHT

Perennial blanket flowers (*Gaillardia aristata* and garden hybrids) need full sun for sturdy growth and abundant bloom. Choose an open border, sunny container or well-drained garden edge. Match spacing to the cultivar; compact Arizona and Spintop types differ from taller selections.

WATER

Water thoroughly at planting and while roots establish. Once established, blanket flowers tolerate dry conditions; give a deep soak during prolonged drought rather than frequent light sprinkling. Let excess water drain. Check container plants more often, since a small root ball can dry quickly.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use lean to average soil with excellent drainage. Plant at nursery depth and keep the crown uncovered. Avoid wet hollows, heavy compacted soil and thick moisture-holding mulch over the plant. Winter drainage is especially important for reliable survival in a perennial border.

FEEDING

Blanket flowers need little fertilizer in ordinary garden soil. If a deficiency is evident, use a modest application according to the label. Avoid repeated rich feeding, which can produce soft, sprawling growth. Container plants may need occasional light feeding during active growth.

SEASONAL CARE

Deadhead faded flowers to encourage continued bloom and limit unwanted seedlings. Leave healthy foliage while it is growing, then remove dead or diseased material after dormancy or in spring. Renew declining plants when necessary; these perennials may be short-lived even with suitable care.

HELPFUL TIPS

This guide covers perennial selections, rather than annual Indian blanket. Check cultivar hardiness before expecting a plant to overwinter in Maine. Seedlings may differ from named parents. Watch for aphids, mildew and leaf spots. Wear gloves if the hairy foliage irritates your skin.