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**14. © Growth, flowering, and survival of firewheel, *Gaillardia pulchella* Foug. based on seed source and growing location.** Hammond, H. E., Norcini, J. G., Wilson, S. B., Schoellhorn, R. K., and Miller, D. L. *Native Plants Journal* 8(1):25-39. 2007.



GROWTH, FLOWERING, AND SURVIVAL OF

# FIREWHEEL

## *GAILLARDIA PULCHELLA* FOUG.

BASED ON SEED SOURCE AND GROWING LOCATION

### ABSTRACT

Home region failed to provide any clear short-term improvement in plant growth, vigor, flowering, quality, or survival of *Gaillardia pulchella* Foug. (Asteraceae; firewheel) when plants derived from natural populations in east Texas, northeast Florida, central west Florida, central east Florida, and southeast Florida were grown under low-input landscape conditions in northwestern, northern central, or southeastern Florida. During the 22-wk study, adaptability of east Texas plants was similar to that of northeast Florida and southeast Florida plants within the different sites. At the 2 northern sites, plant growth, vigor, and flowering were greater than for plants grown in southeastern Florida. The patterns of biweekly changes in plant vigor, flowering, and quality ratings were similar among plants of all seed sources within a site. Averaged over the entire study, these ratings were equally high for plants of all seed sources except central east Florida plants. Within a site, survival of northeast Florida, southeast Florida, and east Texas plants was equally high (83 to 100%). Also, 100% of central west Florida plants survived at the 2 northern sites, yet no central west Florida plants survived past week 16 in southeastern Florida. Differences in growth, vigor, flowering, quality, and survival were likely related to the loamier soils at the 2 northern sites and (or) flooding June rains in southeastern Florida.

Hammond HE, Norcini JG, Wilson SB, Schoellhorn RK, Miller DL. 2007. Growth, flowering, and survival of firewheel (*Gaillardia pulchella* Foug.) based on seed source and growing location. *Native Plants Journal* 8(1):25–39.

### KEY WORDS

ecotype, Florida, wildflowers, home region

### NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2005)

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