**GARBERIA**

by Eve A. Hannahs

*Garberia tritica* syn. *G. heterophylla* of the Asteraceae apparently has no common name. The handsome shrub is classified as threatened on the Florida Endangered Plant List. Threatened because of loss of habitat which is scrub and coastal dunes in central and northern peninsular Florida.

The much-branched shrub sometimes reaches three or more feet. Evergreen spatulate leaves are downy; rose-purple flowers are found in dense, flat-topped clusters on the terminals: brown pappus persists in winter. The fall blooming plant is frequented by butterflies for nectaring. In early November ten butterfly species were counted on one individual plant.

Seeds collected in late fall and early winter germinated seemingly 100% when scrub sand was used. Germination was poor in potting mix, and survivors turned yellow when reaching 3-4 inches. Seeds were barely covered with sand, kept moist, and covered with newspaper until germination. Plants had an excellent survival rate and at ten months are 8 inches tall. (I do not know the additional growth rate or the age of bloom-producing plants, as my experience is limited to last year’s plantings.)

*Garberia* is often found at the edges of woods in a sand pine situation. When swales are “improved” and sodded the plant is lost. Rescue has proven unsuccessful because of the usual deep roots of plants in sandy habitats.

In early November many plants were observed growing near fences (out of the reach of mowing machines) on I-4 east of Orlando and on the sand hills of rural Flagler County roadsides. Apparently it has wide distribution in its chosen areas. It is also salt resistant. *Garberia* is a valued addition to the native plant garden and, as it is easily propagated, it should be available to those with the proper habitat.

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**CONSERVANCY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

The Nature Conservancy, an organization which protects conservation lands, is looking for a few good botanists.

The Conservancy’s Winter Park office needs volunteers to field check property for possible acquisition. The resulting land descriptions will aid in evaluating potential Conservancy projects.

The Nature Conservancy is a national nonprofit conservation organization devoted to finding, protecting, and managing the best examples of the most threatened ecological systems and the diversity of life dependent on them. Since 1951 the organization has preserved 1.9 million acres in 50 states, Canada, the Caribbean, and Latin America. There are 151,000 Conservancy members, almost 7,000 in Florida.

The Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy receives many requests that require evaluation of land. There are more requests than people to handle them, yet almost all deserve a response.

Volunteers will review the Conservancy’s land preservation techniques and Florida Natural Areas Inventory classification categories (there are 40 natural community categories alone for Terrestrial and Palustrine habitats) at workshop sessions. Each volunteer probably would be asked to participate in no more than two evaluations per year.

Please write The Nature Conservancy, 1331 Palmetto Ave., Suite 205, Winter Park, 32789, if you would like to be a volunteer or a volunteer coordinator. Briefly summarize any appropriate background. Experience in botany, or knowledge of Florida’s natural community types are preferred but not required. If you’re interested, we’ll find a way for you to help.

James Mckinley,
The Nature Conservancy

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**A BACKYARD NOTEBOOK**

A Brief Summary of Personal Experimentation with Natives as Backyard Plants
(Second in a Series)

by Doris Rosebraugh

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**DAHOON HOLLY (Ilex Cassine)**

West and Arnold list mature height at 40 ft. Joyce Gann’s Native Tree List places it in the medium/small category. My own experience with older specimens have verified this information. The growth rate is moderately fast and — with pushing — could be fast.

Two specimens planted on my property in Nov. 1979, topping out at about 7’ and in lero containers, are now double in height, spread, and trunk caliper. The soil they are in is marl to about 2 to 2 1/2 feet over the more usual oolite foundation. The planting holes were backfilled with existing soil enriched with Osmocote (14-14-14) and peat moss. They have spurred up and out.

The female produced a large crop of berries last year and in July of 1982 had another crop. These berries will hold and offer a nice show of color through the winter months (if the mockingbirds and catbirds don’t eat them all).

After the initial “extra-care” period in 1980 when ample water was supplied, they were allowed to go on their own with supplemental water only during long dry periods. One is mulched with shredded cypress and leaf fall, while the other (female) is in lawn area, and there is no appreciable difference in their growth.

For design uses, I recommend a grouping of three: two females and a male for cross pollination. As their nature is not spreading, they would be nice townhouse garden trees and accent trees for entry areas.