

# SEED COLLECTION REQUEST

**Common Name:** Indian Blanket, Firewheel, Girasol Rojo (GAPU)

**Scientific Name:** *Gaillardia pulchella*

**Morphological Characteristics:**

- Annual, native, warm-season forb (herb)
- Develops many hairy to downy branches growing up to 3-foot tall with flowers on long stalks
- Leaves are simple, alternate, and sessile
- Upper leaves are lance-shaped and entire, while lower leaves are oblong with lobes 1 - 3½ inches long
- Numerous flowers on solitary stems 2 - 8 inches tall, 1½ - 3 inches broad, with 8 - 12 red and yellow rays
- Seed is achene and not used by game or songbirds
- Sheep and deer will eat leaves; however, not readily consumed by livestock



Photo Courtesy of Norman G. Flaigg, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photo Courtesy of Joseph A. Marcus, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**Conservation Use:**

Why collect this plant?

Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards:

- 327 Conservation Cover
- 342 Critical Area Planting
- 420 Wildlife Habitat Planting
- 550 Range Planting
- 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- 647 Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

**Center Requesting Seed:**

USDA-NRCS James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center  
3950 FM 1292 Suite 100  
Knox City, TX 79529

**How to Collect Seed:**

- 1) Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos.
- 2) Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.



Photo Courtesy of Bruce Leander, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- 3) Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head, then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper bag or seed envelope.
  - a) Please do not use a plastic bag
  - b) Moisture will collect and mold seed.
- 4) Collect seed from a minimum of 30-50 plants.
- 5) Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes:
  - a) Collector's name, number of plants collected
  - b) Location (county, city, highway, and GPS coordinates)
  - c) Site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
- 6) Complete NRCS-ECS-580, plant collection information form, and mail with collected seed to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the collection.

**Helpful Tips:**

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile.

**Other Photos:**



Photo Courtesy of Charmaine Richardson,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photo Courtesy of Steven Schwartzman,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photo Courtesy of Joseph A. Marcus, Lady  
Bird Johnson Wildflower Center