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Allamanda blanchetii: Purple Allamanda[1]

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This document is part of a series originally authored by Edward F. Gilman.

Introduction

Purple allamanda (Figure 1) is an evergreen vine or climbing shrub with 3-inch-long, funnel-shaped blooms (Figure 2), which are reddish-purple fading to pink, giving a two-toned effect. The light green, pubescent leaves are arranged in whorls on weak, sprawling stems (Figure 3). Seed pods are spiky capsules, which turn brown once mature (Figure 4). While it can be allowed to rapidly cover an arbor or other support structure, with careful pruning, purple allamanda can also make an attractive free-standing shrub. It is often used to cover the base of a mailbox or pole. Allamanda has a cascading effect when planted near the edge of a wall, or is suitable for a large hanging basket. This plant is also well suited as a groundcover, or for a container/above ground planter. Rapid growth creates a sprawling form with individual shoots growing alone, away from the rest of the plant. Regular pinching of the new growth will keep the plant fuller and within bounds but should be done when buds are not visible on the plants to maximize the blooms. Over-pruning this plant will decrease flowering, as the plant generally blooms on new growth.



Figure 1. Full form—*Allamanda blanchetii*: purple allamanda.
Credit: © Supratim Deb, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC-ND) via iNaturalist



Figure 2. Flower—*Allamanda blanchetii*: purple allamanda.
Credit: © Subhajit Roy, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC-ND) via iNaturalist



Figure 3. Leaf—*Allamanda blanchetii*: purple allamanda.
Credit: © Víctor de Paiva, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC-ND) via iNaturalist



Figure 4. Fruit—*Allamanda blanchetii*: purple allamanda.
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General Information

Scientific name: *Allamanda blanchetii*

Previous name(s): *Allamanda violacea*

Pronunciation: al-luh-MAN-duh blan-chet-E-eye

Common name(s): purple allamanda

Family: *Apocynaceae*

Plant type: vine; shrub; groundcover

USDA hardiness zones: 9B through 11B (Figures 5 and 6)

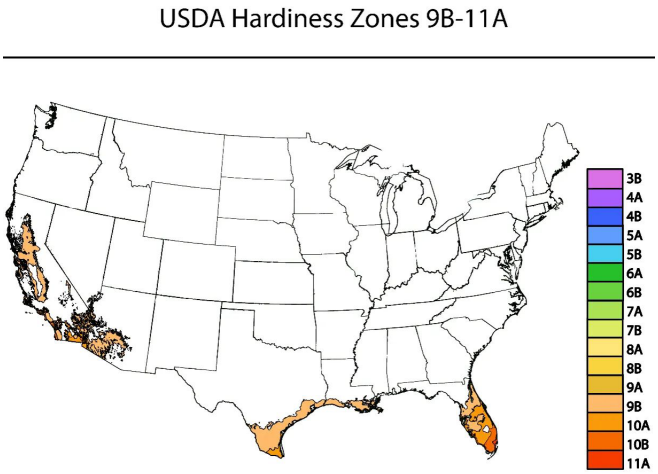


Figure 5. Shaded area represents potential planting zone—USDA Hardiness Zones 9B–11A; 11B within planting zone but not pictured on map.
Credit: This map is based on the 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. Visit https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/ for specific zone information.

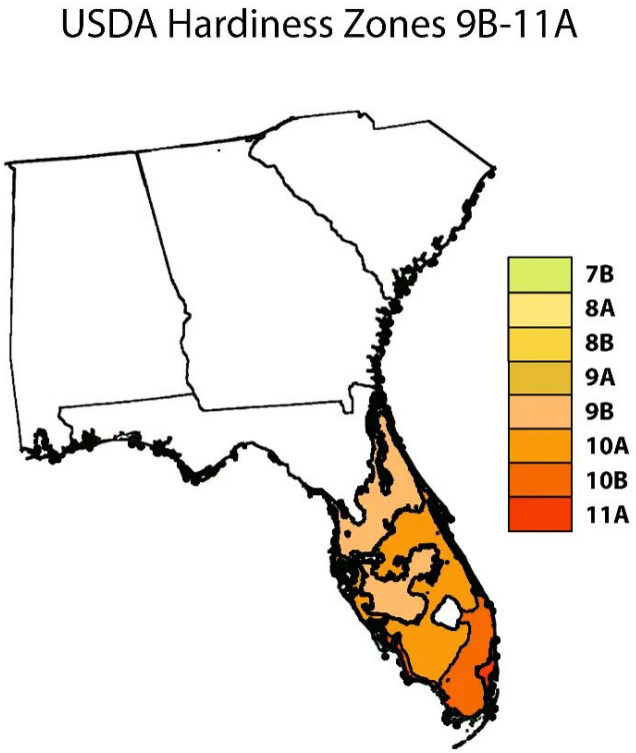


Figure 6. Shaded area represents potential planting zone in the SE Region—USDA Hardiness Zones 9B–11A; 11B within planting zone but not pictured on map.
Credit: This map is based on the 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. Visit https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/ for specific zone information.

Planting month for zone 9: year-round

Planting month for zones 10 and 11: year-round

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Uses: container or above-ground planter; ground cover; cascading down a wall; large hanging basket; veils a trellis

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)

Leaf venation: brochidodromous

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: lavender; purple; reddish-purple; pink

Flower characteristic: year-round flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: capsule

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: green; brown when dry

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy; spiky

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun; plant grows in partial shade

Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; acidic; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerance: low

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form; evergreen foliage; year-round flowering

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Toxicity: all parts of this plant are considered toxic; sap may cause dermatitis; plant has cathartic effects if ingested

Use and Management

Purple allamanda produces best growth and blooms when planted in full-sun locations. This plant should be planted in frost-free sheltered locations in nematode-free soil; however, it may be planted in a variety of soil types. Water plants generously until well-established. Pruning may be needed to keep this plant in a desired shape or within bounds of the planting area. Purple allamanda is a highly adaptable plant to use in the landscape in a variety of ways. Its evergreen leaves and year-round flowers bring added interest and lend a tropical feel to the landscape. It may be used to veil a trellis, cascade down a wall, espalier; or grown in a container or large hanging basket. With maintenance, this plant also makes a suitable specimen plant or shrub. Use caution around children and pets as all parts of this plant are toxic.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Design Considerations

The purple allamanda works well as a background or massing plant when grown on a trellis or fence to block undesirable views or fill gaps along walls. It can also be used to add interest to an arbor or pole. The medium-size, light green foliage of the allamanda shows well with contrasting plant features such as large leaves, coarse texture, thick stems, and dark green or burgundy color. The loose, sprawling form of the vine contrasts with neat plants such as the clumping, arching forms of grasses and other vase-shaped, small-leaved shrubs. Low-growing groundcover with a mounding or matting form will emphasize the upright form of a trained allamanda on a trellis or arbor. To create a large plant mass along a fence, select other vines with a variety of flower colors, such as white, pink, or yellow to mix with the allamanda for more interest.

Pests and Diseases

Minor (occasional) pest issues include scale, mites, and nematodes. No diseases of major concern.

[1] This document is FPS 32, one of a series of the Department of Environmental Horticulturet, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date September 1999. Revised August 2018 and November 2025. Visit the Ask IFAS website at https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/ for the currently supported version of this publication. *To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water and natural resources, visit ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/*.

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