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Centratherum punctatum: Brazilian Buttonflower, Bachelor's Button, Larkdaisy[1]

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This Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ publication is part of a series originally written by Edward F. Gilman.
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Introduction

Brazilian buttonflower *(Centratherum punctatum*) is an herbaceous perennial that is native to Central and South America, Australia, and parts of Asia. This plant has a spreading growth habit, and may reach a height of 1 to 2 feet and spread up to 2 to 4 feet (Figure 1). The olive to light green foliage of the Brazilian buttonflower has a fine texture and creates a soft texture along with the long-lasting, fluffy, button-like flowers appearing on the plant in the warm months. The elliptical foliage is coarsely toothed and has a light fragrance. Brazilian buttonflower is in the *Asteraceae* family, and has notable 1-inch-wide lavender to pink button-like flowers (Figure 3). This species blooms summer through fall, but may bloom throughout the year in tropical climates. It is grown as a perennial plant in warmer growing zones, but treated as an annual plant in northern zones where the plant freezes to the ground as it will not resprout. This plant will reseed and sprout the following spring. This plant is well suited as a groundcover or cascades nicely down a wall, due to its sprawling growth form. It also attracts pollinators with its prolific purple flowers.



Figure 1. Full form—*Centratherum punctatum*: Brazilian buttonflower.
Credit: © pavlaki1968, some rights reserved (CC BY) via iNaturalist



Figure 2. Leaf—*Centratherum punctatum*: Brazilian buttonflower.
Credit: © Matthew Borella, some rights reserved (CC BY) via iNaturalist



Figure 3. Flower—*Centratherum punctatum*: Brazilian buttonflower.
Credit: © Aditya Bari, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC) via iNaturalist

General Information

Scientific name: *Centratherum punctatum*

Previous name(s): *Centratherum intermedium*

Pronunciation: sen-TRATH-ur-um punk-TOT-toom

Common name(s): Brazilian buttonflower, bachelor's button, larkdaisy

Family: *Asteraceae*

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 9 through 11 (Figures 4 and 5); may be planted as an annual in any hardiness zone

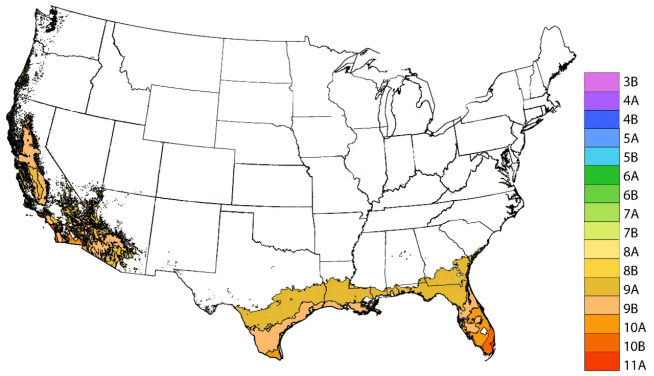


Figure 4. Shaded area represents potential planting zone—USDA Hardiness Zones 9A–11; 11B within planting zone but not pictured on map.
Credit: This map is based on the 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. Visit https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/ for specific zone information.

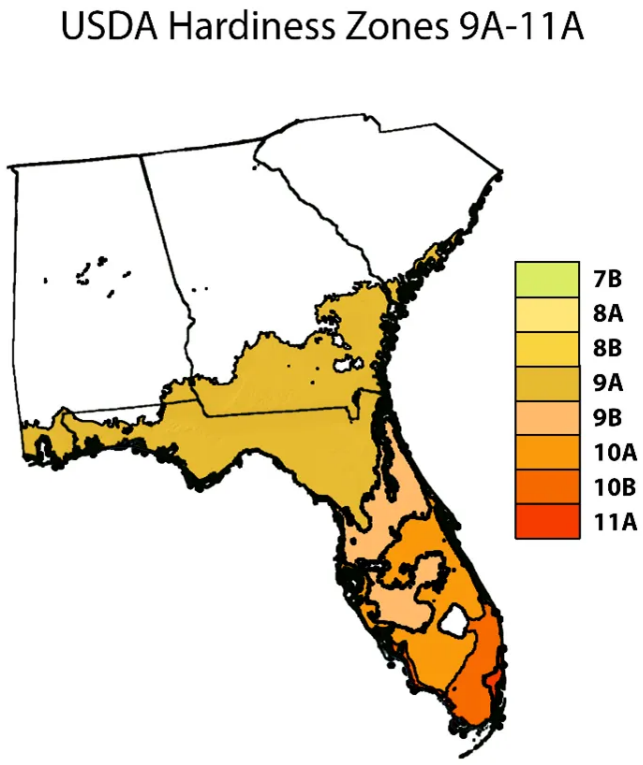


Figure 5. Shaded area represents potential planting zone in the SE Region—USDA Hardiness Zones 9A–11; 11B within planting zone but not pictured on map.
Credit: This map is based on the 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. Visit https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/ for specific zone information.

Planting month for zone 9: year-round

Planting month for zones 10 and 11: year-round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: groundcover; edging; cascading down a wall; attracts butterflies

Availability: may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 2 to 4 feet

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: serrate

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous; fragrant

Leaf blade length: 2 to 3 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: lavender; pink

Flower characteristic: summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: ovoid

Fruit length: less than 1 inch

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

Current year stem/twig color: reddish

Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam; clay

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Invasive potential: may self-seed each year

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

The Brazilian buttonflower prefers a well-drained soil and a full sun to partial shade position in the landscape. It is drought tolerant but is killed if frozen. This plant generally reseeds itself in the landscape and will resprout the following spring. This plant is a tender perennial but treated as an annual in frost-prone locations. Propagation is by cuttings or seed.

Design Considerations

With its continuous lavender button blooms and finely textured foliage, Brazilian buttonflower excels as a flowering groundcover or textural filler. Its mounding, sprawling habit is perfect for massing at the front of borders, tucking into rock gardens, or spilling over the edge of containers. It is also an excellent addition to a pollinator garden.

For effective pairings, choose sun-loving companions that offer contrast. Try Coreopsis or Gaillardia for a pop of yellow-orange; taller spires like Salvia for vertical interest; airy grasses such as pink muhly for movement; and silver or chartreuse foliage like dusty miller or sweet potato vine to make the purple blooms stand out.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases of major concern.

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