

# ***Centratherum punctatum*: Brazilian Buttonflower, Bachelor's Button, Larkdaisy<sup>1</sup>**

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*This Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ publication is part of a series originally written by Edward F. Gilman. Visit <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/> to learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water resources and environment.*

## **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.

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## 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

## USDA Hardiness Zones 9A-11A

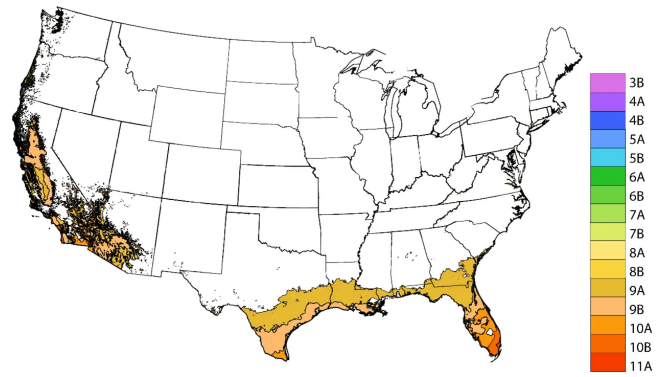


Figure 4. Shaded area represents potential planting zone—USDA Hardiness Zones 9A–11; 11B within planting zone but not pictured on map.

Credit: This map is based on the 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. Visit

<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/> for specific zone information.

## USDA Hardiness Zones 9A-11A

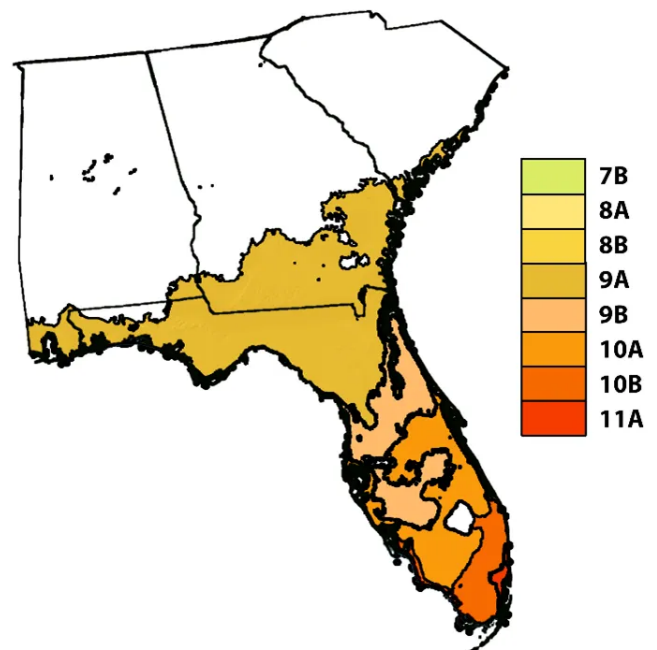


Figure 5. Shaded area represents potential planting zone in the SE Region—USDA Hardiness Zones 9A–11; 11B within planting zone but not pictured on map.

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.

<sup>1</sup> This document is FPS116, one of a series of the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture. Original publication date October 1999. Revised April 2026. Visit the Ask IFAS website at <https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/> for the currently supported version of this publication.

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