

Allamanda violacea1

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Introduction

This evergreen vine or climbing shrub has three-inch-long, funnel-shaped blooms which are reddish-purple fading to pink, giving a two-toned effect (Fig. 1). The light green, pubescent leaves are arranged in whorls on weak, sprawling stems. While it can be allowed to rapidly cover an arbor or other support, Purple Allamanda also makes an attractive free-standing specimen shrub with careful pruning. Many people use it to cover the base of a mail box or pole. Allamanda will cascade over a wall and makes a nice hanging basket. Rapid growth creates a sprawling form with individual shoots growing alone, away from the rest of the plant. Regular pinching will keep the plant in bounds, but too much pinching removes flower buds which form on new growth.

General Information

Scientific name: Allamanda violacea

Pronunciation: al-luh-MAN-duh vye-o-LAY-see-uh

Common name(s): Purple Allamanda

Family: Apocynaceae

Plant type: shrub; ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 9B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; ground cover;

cascading down a wall; hanging basket

Availablity: generally available in many areas within its

hardiness range

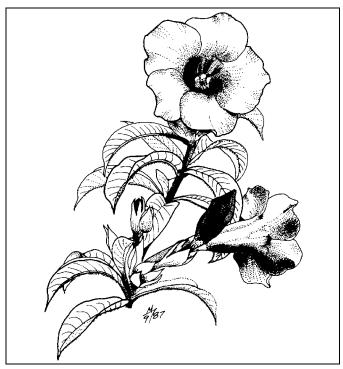


Figure 1. Purple Allamanda.

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure **Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading Plant density: moderate Growth rate: moderate

Texture: coarse

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)
Leaf venation: brachidodrome
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

Flower characteristic: year-round flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown Fruit length: unknown Fruit cover: no fruit Fruit color: green Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

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

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

sand; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate **Soil salt tolerances:** unknown **Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features

and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

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

Use and Management

Flowering best in full sun locations, Purple Allamanda should be planted in frost-free sheltered locations in nematode-free soil. Water plants generously until well-established. All parts of the plant are poisonous and should be used with caution in areas frequented by young children.

Propagation is by cuttings but it is grown best when grafted on *A. cathartica* (Yellow Allamanda) cultivars 'Hendersonii' or 'Schottii'.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern except for nematodes. Purple Allamanda is only occasionally bothered by scale and mites.