



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Antigonon leptopus*¹

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Introduction

This rapidly growing, tender vine is perfect for use in hot, sunny areas where its light green, heart-shaped, four-inch leaves and beautiful, drooping clusters of bright pink blooms offer a welcome relief (Fig. 1). Coral Vine will offer a colorful display all summer and into the fall until nipped by frost. Climbing by means of tendrils, it will quickly cover trellises, arbors, and fences or will spread up a tree trunk and into the branches. If left alone, Coral Vine could completely cover the tree. Its deciduous nature (in USDA hardiness zone 9) makes it well-suited for arbors where it can offer dense shade and flowers in the summer and yet allow the warm winter sun through when it is most needed. Be prepared to control or direct the growth of this rapidly spreading vine so it will not “take over” your garden or landscape.

General Information

Scientific name: *Antigonon leptopus*

Pronunciation: an-TIG-o-non lep-TOE-pus

Common name(s): Coralvine, Queen’s Wreath

Family: *Polygonaceae*

Plant type: vine

USDA hardiness zones: 9 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: cascading down a wall

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

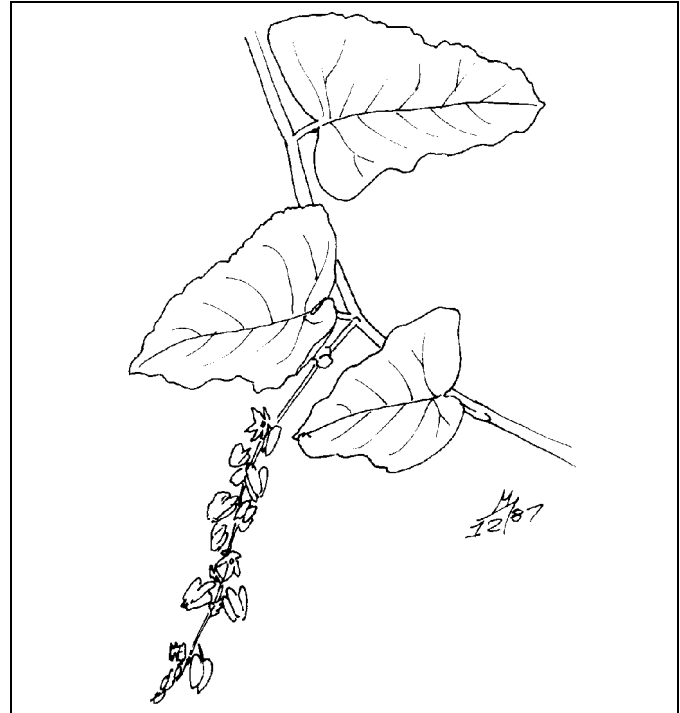


Figure 1. Coralvine.

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** undulate
- Leaf shape:** ovate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

Flower

- Flower color:** white; red
- Flower characteristic:** summer flowering; pleasant fragrance; fall flowering; spring flowering

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** irregular
- Fruit length:** less than .5 inch
- Fruit cover:** dry or hard

- Fruit color:** unknown
- Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** reddish
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- Soil tolerances:** occasionally wet; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
- Drought tolerance:** high
- Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: potentially invasive

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

Use and Management

Coral Vine shows best growth and heaviest flowering in full sun. Tolerant of many soil types, it responds well to ample moisture conditions, especially during drought. Knocked to the ground by frost in all areas, except USDA hardiness zone 10, Coral Vine will quickly renew itself in spring. Old vines can be severely cut back during the late winter.

There is a cultivar available with white flowers, 'Album', but it is not as cold hardy as the pink varieties. 'Baja Red' is a hot rose pink, nearly red, cultivar but its color is variable from seed.

Propagation is by seed, usually from the bountiful volunteer seedlings which appear under the old vines.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Caterpillars will occasionally chew holes in the leaves.