**Introduction**

A native of the Caribbean region, Garlic-Vine produces one of the prettiest flowers of any vine used in South Florida (Fig. 1). In the spring and fall, and periodically throughout the year, bright pink to lavender flowers are produced on the new growth near the top of the plant mass. The simple, glossy leaves are borne opposite on the stem and remain attractive all year long. All parts of the plant smell like garlic when injured.

**General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Cydista aequinoctalis*  
**Pronunciation:** sye-DISS-tuh ee-kwin-nock-TAL-liss  
**Common name(s):** Garlic-Vine  
**Family:** Bignoniaceae  
**Plant type:** vine  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)  
**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** espalier  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

**Description**

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure  
**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure  
**Plant habit:** spreading  
**Plant density:** moderate  
**Growth rate:** fast  
**Texture:** medium

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** entire  
**Leaf shape:** lanceolate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.
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: pink
Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; spring flowering; fall flowering

Fruit
Fruit shape: unknown
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: unknown
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: brown
Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture
Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;
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: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests
Use and Management

Garlic-Vine is usually trained on a fence, trellis or arbor where it covers the structure with flowers for several months each year. It can grow up the trunk of a tree and will cover the branches. It flowers best in the full sun. Provide irrigation during dry periods in the summer and lightly fertilize to keep the plant vigorous.

Pests and Diseases

There are no major problems growing this plant.

Figure 3. Foliage of Garlic-Vine