



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Tibouchina* spp.<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

Dwarf *Tibouchina* grows to about 2 inches tall very tight to the ground (Fig. 1). It makes a nice ground cover for a small area, or can be placed in a hanging basket and allowed to droop over the side.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Tibouchina* spp.

**Pronunciation:** tib-boo-KYE-nuh species

**Common name(s):** Dwarf *Tibouchina*

**Family:** *Melastomataceae*

**Plant type:** ground cover

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** ground cover; cascading down a wall; container or above-ground planter; border

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

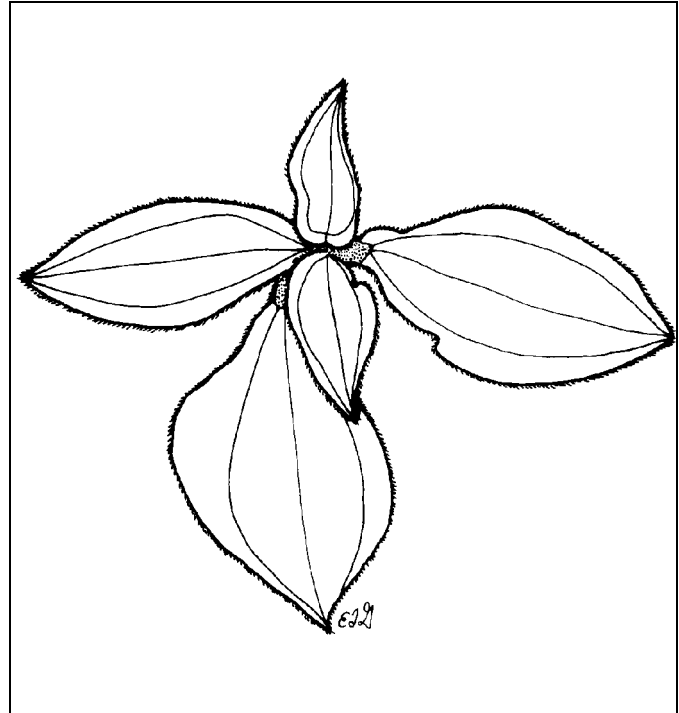


Figure 1. Dwarf *Tibouchina*.

### Description

**Height:** 0 to .5 feet

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** prostrate (flat)

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** ovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** purple

**Flower characteristic:** summer 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:** green

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay

**Drought tolerance:**

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

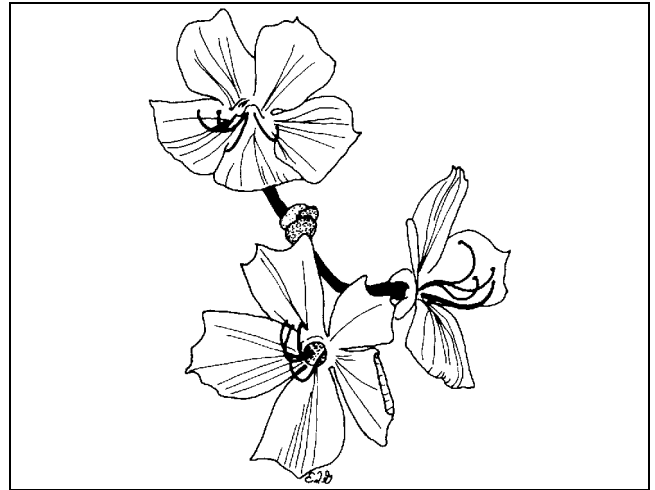
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

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

**Use and Management**

Full sun provides for the best flower display, although flowers are not nearly as showy as those on the shrubby species

of *Tibouchina*. The plant will be grown mainly for the unusually small foliage a compact growth habit.



**Figure 3.** Flower of Dwarf Tibouchina