



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Allamanda violacea*¹

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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

Availability: 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.