Allamanda violacea¹
Edward F. Gilman²

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 mailbox 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

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure
Spread: depends upon supporting structure
Plant habit: spreading
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: coarse

Figure 1. Purple Allamanda.
**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

*Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.*
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.