**Centratherum intermedium**

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**Introduction**

Brazilian Buttonflower, a native of Brazil, is an herbaceous perennial that may attain a height of 6 to 18 inches. The olive to light green foliage of the Brazilian Buttonflower has a fine texture and creates a soft texture along with the long-lasting, fluffy, button-like flowers appearing on the plant in the warm months. These 1 inch wide flowers are a beautiful lavender-pink color.

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**General Information**

**Scientific name:** Centratherum intermedium  
**Pronunciation:** sen-TRATH-ur-um in-tur-MEE-dee-um  
**Common name(s):** Brazilian Buttonflower  
**Family:** Unknown  
**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 9 through 11 (Fig. 1)  
**Planting month for zone 9:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** ground cover; edging; cascading down a wall  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

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**Description**

**Height:** .5 to 1 feet  
**Spread:** 3 to 4 feet  
**Plant habit:** spreading  
**Plant density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** fast  

**Texture:** fine  
**Foliage**  
**Leaf arrangement:** alternate  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** serrate  
**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval)  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous  
**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**  
**Flower color:** lavender; pink  
**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering; fall flowering

**Fruit**  
**Fruit shape:** no fruit  
**Fruit length:** no fruit  
**Fruit cover:** no fruit  
**Fruit color:** not applicable  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**  
**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig color:** reddish  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

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Use and Management

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam; clay
Drought tolerance:
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: may self-seed each year
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

The Brazilian Buttonflower is generally used as a ground cover and is lovely when massed. It is well suited for a rock garden.

The Brazilian Buttonflower prefers a well-drained soil and a full sun to partial shade position in the landscape. It is drought tolerant but is killed if frozen.

Propagate by cuttings. It will readily reseed itself.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or disease are of major concern.