



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Centratherum intermedium***<sup>1</sup>

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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.

### **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

### **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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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## 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.