



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Cydista aequinoctalis*¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

A native of the Caribbean region, Garlic-Vine produces one of the prettiest flowers of any vine used in South Florida (Fig. 1). In the spring and fall, and periodically throughout the year, bright pink to lavender flowers are produced on the new growth near the top of the plant mass. The simple, glossy leaves are borne opposite on the stem and remain attractive all year long. All parts of the plant smell like garlic when injured.

General Information

Scientific name: *Cydista aequinoctalis*

Pronunciation: sye-DISS-tuh ee-kwin-nock-TAL-liss

Common name(s): Garlic-Vine

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

Plant type: vine

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

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: espalier

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

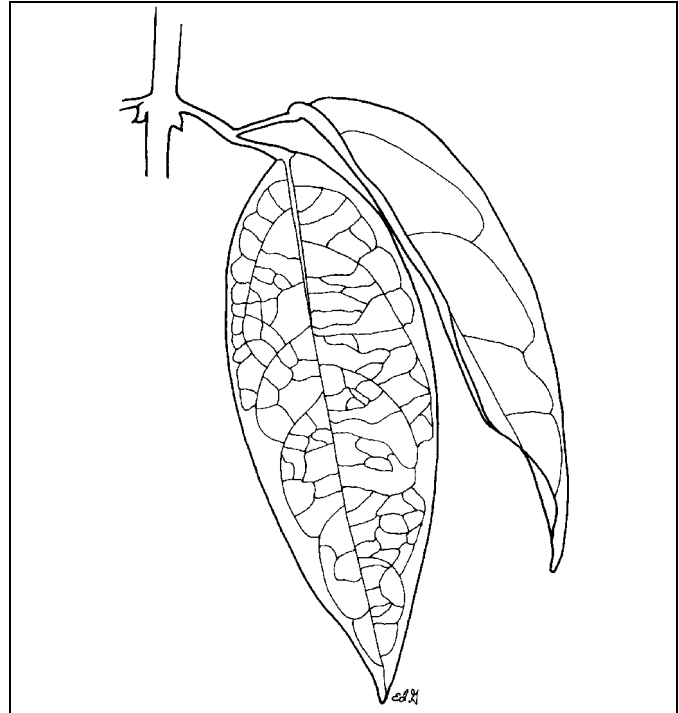


Figure 1. Garlic-Vine.

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: lanceolate

Leaf venation: pinnate

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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: pink

Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; spring 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: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

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

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

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

Use and Management

Garlic-Vine is usually trained on a fence, trellis or arbor where it covers the structure with flowers for several months each year. It can grow up the trunk of a tree and will cover the branches. It flowers best in the full sun. Provide irrigation during dry periods in the summer and lightly fertilize to keep the plant vigorous.

Pests and Diseases

There are no major problems growing this plant.

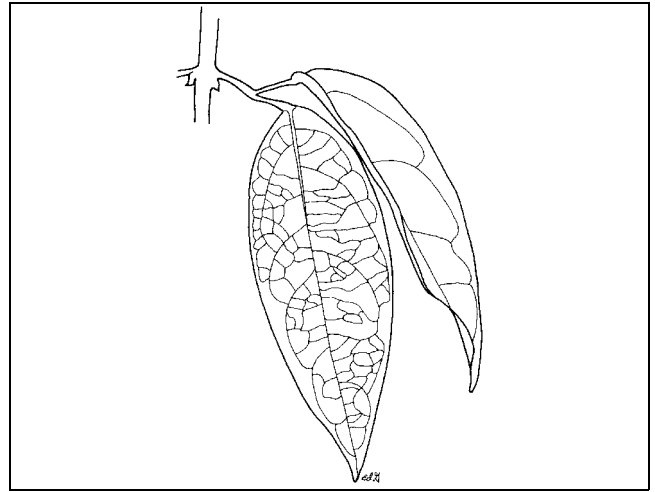


Figure 3. Foliage of Garlic-Vine