



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Duranta repens*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This large, fast-growing, multistemmed shrub is popular as a screen or background planting, but is too vigorous and tall to use against the foundation or in small areas. The full clusters of fragrant, pale blue flowers attract butterflies in summer and are followed by bunches of golden-orange berries, popular with birds. Flowers and fruit are often found on the plant simultaneously and make an attractive show. Yellow fruit often hangs on the plant into the winter if the birds don't eat them.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Duranta repens*

**Pronunciation:** doo-RAN-tuh REE-penz

**Common name(s):** Golden Dewdrop, Sky-Flower, Pigeonberry

**Family:** *Verbenaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9B through 11 (Fig. 1)

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Uses:** border; mass planting; specimen; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; screen; reclamation plant; espalier; foundation; attracts butterflies; cascading down a wall

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

### Description

**Height:** 8 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet

**Plant habit:** round; weeping

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

#### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** whorled

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** ovate

**Leaf venation:** brachidodrome; pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

#### Flower

**Flower color:** paleblue

**Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance; spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering

#### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Fruit color:** yellow

**Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant

**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 part shade/part sun

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

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**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:** aggressive, spreading plant

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

**Use and Management**

Foliage is light green, branches are often droopy and vinelike, and the stems may have sharp spines. When frozen back in the winter, the canes make vigorous recovery and will bloom the next season in USDA hardiness zone 9. Dewdrop will cascade over a wall to form a waterfall of color when in bloom or fruit. Plant on four to six-foot centers to form a dense mass planting.

Preferring full sun and occasional irrigation, Golden Dewdrop will tolerate a wide range of soils and requires no special care once established.

A white-flowering cultivar, 'Alba', is also available.

Propagation is by seeds or cuttings of firm wood.

Pests include caterpillars, nematodes, and scale.

**Pests and Diseases**

No diseases are of major concern.