



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Dyschoriste oblongifolia***<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

*Dyschoriste oblongifolia* is a rounded plant that attains a height of 6 to 12 inches. It is commonly used in the landscape as a ground cover and has pretty flowers that are quite striking when closely observed. Twinflower, as the name implies, has paired lavender flowers that occur throughout the year; the heaviest bloom is in May. These plants have a relatively open habit and should be closely spaced in order to cover an area effectively.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Dyschoriste oblongifolia*  
**Pronunciation:** diss-kor-RISS-tee ob-long-if-FOLE-ee-uh  
**Common name(s):** Twinflower  
**Family:** *Acanthaceae*  
**Plant type:** herbaceous; ground cover  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 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:** ground cover  
**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

### **Description**

**Height:** .5 to 1 feet  
**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure  
**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** open  
**Growth rate:** fast  
**Texture:** fine

### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** unknown  
**Leaf type:** simple  
**Leaf margin:** unknown  
**Leaf shape:** unknown  
**Leaf venation:** unknown  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** unknown  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### **Flower**

**Flower color:** lavender  
**Flower characteristic:** year-round 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

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

### Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** acidic; sand; slightly alkaline; loam; clay;  
**Drought tolerance:** high  
**Soil salt tolerances:** poor  
**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

### Other

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

### Use and Management

The Twinflower will grow well on acidic, well-drained, sandy soils and prefers a sunny or partially shaded location in the landscape. This ground cover is native to pineland areas in the southeastern United States and will tolerate considerable drought.