



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Eustoma grandiflorum¹

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Introduction

Lisianthus is a wonderful flowering plant growing to about 15-inches-tall used as an annual in landscapes throughout the country (Fig. 1). Its spectacular, purple flower gives it a distinction unmatched by other annual bedding plants. Foliage is an unusual blue-green.

General Information

Scientific name: *Eustoma grandiflorum*

Pronunciation: yoo-STOE-muh gran-dif-FLOR-uh

Common name(s): Lisianthus

Family: *Gentianaceae*

Plant type: annual; biennial

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Mar; Apr; Oct; Nov

Origin: native to North America

Uses: mass planting

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: .5 to 1 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

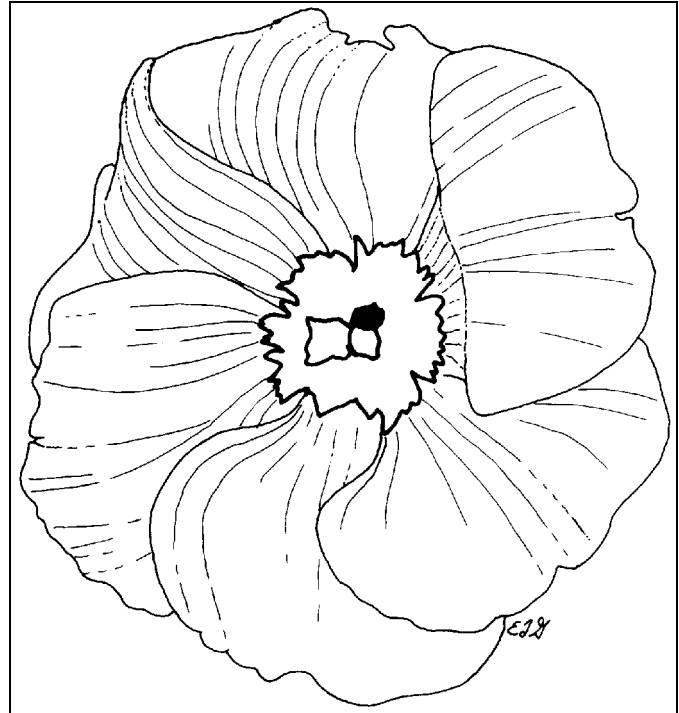


Figure 1. Lisianthus.

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: ovate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf venation: parallel
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: purple
Flower characteristic: showy

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: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: not applicable
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: may self-seed each year
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Since individual plants fall over as they grow taller, most people plant several to many plants together. The loose, open habit of the plant makes it nicely suited for an informal border. Unlike many other bedding plants, a mass planting does not form a nice, smooth mass of color. Instead, an irregular mass of purple covers the ground.