



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Indigofera cylindrica*¹

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Introduction

Indigo has pinnately compound leaves borne on slender, green stems typical of many plants in the legume family. It's upright growth habit eventually forms a rounded vase shape canopy about 6-feet-tall.

General Information

Scientific name: *Indigofera cylindrica*

Pronunciation: in-dig-GOFF-fur-uh sil-LIN-drick-uh

Common name(s): Indigo

Family: *Leguminaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 1)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: specimen; border

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

Description

Height: 4 to 8 feet

Spread: 5 to 7 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: odd-pinnately compound

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: pink

Flower characteristic: showy

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: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; not particularly showy

Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

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

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

in the spring or summer increases canopy density and branchiness. It also makes a nice candidate for planting in a container for display on the deck or patio, or by an entrance to your home or business. The unusual texture gives it a means to stand out in a shrub border or other mass planting.

Full sun to part shade give the best growth. The plant appears to adapt to a wide range of soil pH.

Other

Roots: sprouts from roots or lower trunk

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

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

Use and Management

Fine-textured foliage and a neat habit makes this a good candidate for specimen planting in the garden. Young plants may be sparsely branched, but a little heading on the main stems