



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Ipomoea purpurea*¹

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Introduction

The Morning Glory is a herbaceous vine that is native to the southeastern United States. This plant, unlike the Beach Morning Glory, can be grown throughout central and south Florida along the coast. It attains a height of 4 to 6 inches as a ground cover but can spread along the ground almost indefinitely. The small, thick, glossy green leaves are cordate in shape and densely cover the slender stems. This plant roots and branches at the nodes and spreads very rapidly. The pinkish to purple, funnel-shaped flowers of the Morning Glory are generally 2 1/2 to 3 inches wide. Flowers can also be blue, or occasionally white. They open in the early morning and close before noon each day during the blooming season. In contrast to the other Morning Glories, the flowers are borne in the winter and spring.

General Information

Scientific name: *Ipomoea purpurea*

Pronunciation: ipp-oh-MEE-uh pur-PURE-ee-uh

Common name(s): Morning-Glory

Family: *Convolvulaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

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

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; ground cover; attracts hummingbirds; cascading down a wall; naturalizing

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

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: open

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: cordate

Leaf venation: 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: blue; white; purple; pink

Flower characteristic: flowers periodically throughout the year

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown

Fruit length: unknown

Fruit cover: unknown

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; alkaline; sand; loam;

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: good

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

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

Morning Glory is well adapted to beaches and coastal dunes. It is most useful as a sandbinder in coastal landscapes. This vine is an excellent coastal ground cover and will also provide a screen or shelter if it is given a support, such as a trellis, to climb upon. Plant on 3-foot-centers to quickly form a ground cover. Its denser growth habit may make it better suited for home and commercial landscapes than the other Morning Glories. However, like other Morning Glories, it tends not to branch, forming long strands with widely spaced leaves and flowers.

This plant will flourish in full sun on well-drained, sandy soils. It is very tolerant of drought and salt air. The Morning

Glory is a rapidly growing plant and requires frequent pruning to keep it in bounds. Use fertilizer sparingly, if at all, to encourage flower production.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.