



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Petrea volubilis***<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### **Introduction**

Queen's Wreath is a native of the Caribbean Basin with large, rough-surfaced, dark green leaves and a very showy display of purplish blue, star-shaped flowers arranged in foot-long, slender, hanging clusters (Fig. 1). Blooming several times a year, this rapidly-growing, evergreen, twining vine produces its best bloom in spring. Flowers literally cover the vine for several weeks.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Petrea volubilis*

**Pronunciation:** PEE-tree-uh vol-LOO-bill-liss

**Common name(s):** Queen's Wreath

**Family:** *Verbenaceae*

**Plant type:** vine

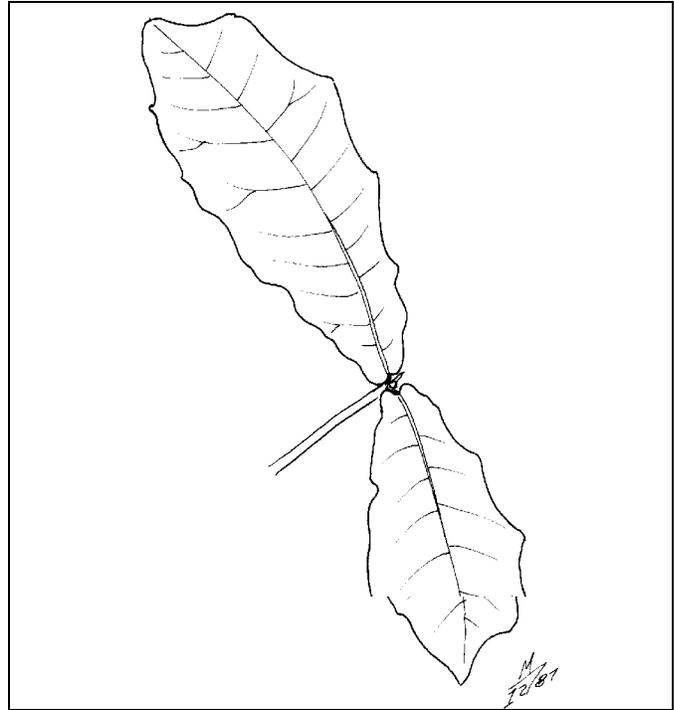
**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** espalier

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



**Figure 1.** Queen's Wreath.

### **Description**

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** whorled

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval)

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-467, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** lavender; blue; white

**Flower characteristic:** flowers periodically throughout the year

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** round

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

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** usually with one stem/trunk

**Current year stem/twig color:** brown

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; loam;

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

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

## Use and Management

It can be trained to grow on an arbor, trellis or fence in a sunny garden spot. The blue flower color is spectacular and perhaps second to none for a subtropical landscape. Flowers resemble wisteria.

Preferring full sun but tolerating light shade, Queen's Wreath will grow in any reasonably good soil. Plants should be watered periodically and lawn grasses should be kept back from the root zone. Young vines should be protected from frost.

The cultivar 'Albiflora' has white flowers and similar growth characteristics, but it is rare in the trade.

Propagation is by cuttings, air layers, or division of root suckers.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.



Figure 3. Flower of Queen's Wreath