**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

**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

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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.
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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*