**Tibouchina spp.**

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**Introduction**

Dwarf Tibouchina grows to about 2 inches tall very tight to the ground (Fig. 1). It makes a nice ground cover for a small area, or can be placed in a hanging basket and allowed to droop over the side.

**General Information**

Scientific name: *Tibouchina* spp.  
Pronunciation: tib boo KYE nuh species  
Common name(s): Dwarf Tibouchina  
Family: Melastomataceae  
Plant type: ground cover  
USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)  
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round  
Origin: not native to North America  
Uses: ground cover; cascading down a wall; container or above-ground planter; border  
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

**Description**

Height: 0 to .5 feet  
Spread: depends upon supporting structure  
Plant habit: prostrate (flat)  
Plant density: dense  
Growth rate: moderate  
Texture: fine

**Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: entire  
Leaf shape: ovate  
Leaf venation: pinnate  
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf**
- **Leaf blade length**: less than 2 inches
- **Leaf color**: green
- **Fall color**: no fall color change
- **Fall characteristic**: not showy

**Flower**
- **Flower color**: purple
- **Flower characteristic**: summer flowering; fall flowering

**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**: not applicable
- **Current year stem/twig color**: green
- **Current year stem/twig thickness**: thin

**Culture**
- **Light requirement**: plant grows in part shade/part sun
- **Soil tolerances**: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay
- **Drought tolerance**: soil salt tolerances: poor
- **Drought tolerance**: soil salt tolerances: poor
- **Plant spacing**: 18 to 24 inches

**Other**
- **Roots**: not applicable
- **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**

Full sun provides for the best flower display, although flowers are not nearly as showy as those on the shrubby species
of Tibouchina. The plant will be grown mainly for the unusually small foliage a compact growth habit.