



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Torenia fournieri¹

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Introduction

Wishbone Flower is a perennial grown as an annual with flowers of blue, white, or pink with yellow markings (Fig. 1). The plants grow 12 to 15 inches tall and are spaced eight to nine inches apart. *Torenia* is an excellent landscape annual that may also be used as a potted plant. The leaves turn reddish green during unseasonably cold weather.

General Information

Scientific name: *Torenia fournieri*

Pronunciation: toe-REEN-nee-uh for-NEER-eye

Common name(s): Wishbone Flower, *Torenia*

Family: *Scrophulariaceae*

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May; Jun; Sep; Oct

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Mar; Apr; May; Sep; Oct

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; edging; border

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

Description

Height: .5 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: dense

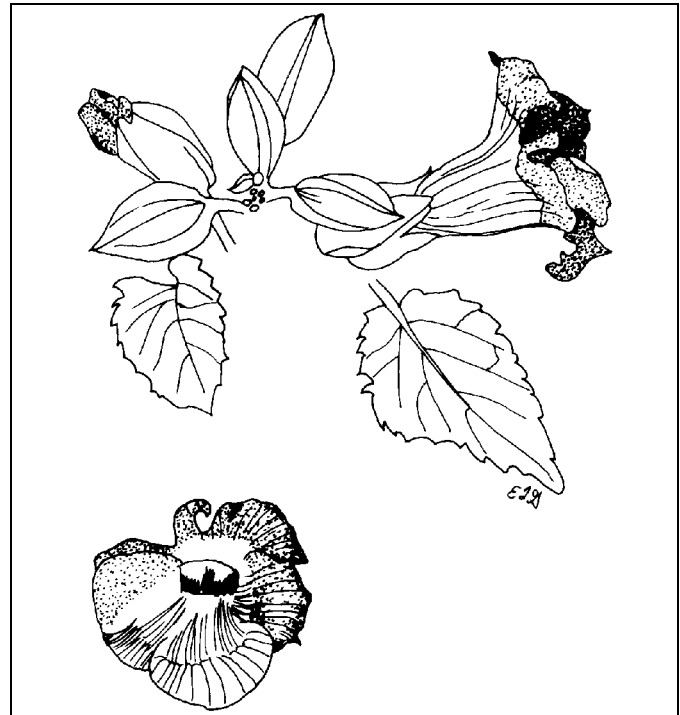


Figure 1. Wishbone Flower.

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: serrate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf shape: ovate
Leaf venation: bowed
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: pink; blue; white
Flower characteristic: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit
Fruit length: no fruit
Fruit cover: no fruit
Fruit color: not applicable
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: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance:
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: not applicable
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: may self-seed each year
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

The plant grows well in shade or semi-shade, but produces the most flowers in full sun with adequate irrigation. Leggy plants indicate that the plants need more light. Provide a moist soil with a good supply of organic matter. The plant likes moisture and should not be allowed to dry out.

The seed germinates in two to three weeks at 70-degrees F. Fall planted seed provides plants for winter blooms indoors. Planting can be done from February through October in south Florida.

Cultivars have been developed within at least two series including the 'Clown' and 'Panda' series.

Pests and Diseases

Torenia had moderate to severe whitefly infestations in central Florida evaluation trials.