

# *Mandevilla sanderi* 'Red Riding Hood' Red Riding Hood Allamanda<sup>1</sup>

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

## Introduction

Quickly twining around any support, or pinched to create a handsome hanging specimen, 'Red Riding Hood' allamanda is an attractive evergreen vine endowed with beautiful, deep red, funnelform blooms up to 4 inches wide and 2 inches long, set off against dark green, large evergreen leaves. It is a popular cultivar of Mandevilla.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Mandevilla sanderi* 'Red Riding Hood'

**Pronunciation:** man-dev-VILL-luh SAN-der-rye

**Common name(s):** 'Red Riding Hood' allamanda

**Family:** Apocynaceae

**Plant type:** vine

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11 (Fig. 1)

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** hanging basket; cascading down a wall

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

## Description

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** coarse



Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval)

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**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:** red

1. This document is FPS-398, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date October 1999. Revised May 2007. Reviewed June 2011. Visit the EDIS website 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.

**Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering; pleasant fragrance

## **Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** elongated

**Fruit length:** unknown

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

## **Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

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

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

## **Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 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:** 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 looks particularly attractive twining along a fence or over an arbor or mailbox. Foliage and flowers cluster toward the top of the fence or arbor several years after planting. Regularly heading back several of the twining stems each year will help generate new foliage and flowers near the ground. Rapid growth and profuse flowering have helped allamanda become popular as an annual in cooler regions where freezing temperatures kill the plant to the ground.

Growing best in full sun, allamanda needs well-drained soil and should receive ample moisture during the growing season. Flowers appear in greatest abundance during the summer but some appear all year.

## **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Plants are occasionally bothered by scale and mealybugs.