

# Tibouchina spp. Dwarf Tibouchina<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Dwarf tibouchina grows to about 2 inches tall and 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.

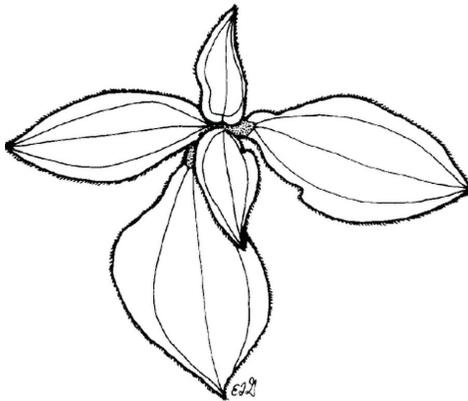


Figure 1. Dwarf tibouchina

## 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



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## 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

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**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**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



Figure 3. Flower of dwarf tibouchina

## 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

**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 and compact growth habit.