Tabernaemontana divaricata Crepe Jasmine, Pinwheel Flower¹
Edward F.Gilman²

Introduction
This round, evergreen, well-branched shrub has large, glossy, dark green leaves and waxy white, ruffle-edged flowers, which are especially fragrant at night (Fig. 1). Flower petals curve like a pinwheel, and they are very prominent throughout the warm months of the year. Stems bleed a milky sap when injured.

General Information
Scientific name: Tabernaemontana divaricata
Common name(s): crepe jasmine, pinwheel flower
Family: Apocynaceae
Plant type: shrub

Description
Height: 6 to 10 feet
Spread: 3 to 6 feet
Plant habit: round
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: medium

USDA hardiness zones: 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: mass planting; specimen; container or above-ground planter; hedge; foundation; trained as a standard
Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

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**Foliage**
- **Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** entire
- **Leaf shape:** oblong
- **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:** white
- **Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance; year-round flowering

**Fruit**
- **Fruit shape:** pod or pod-like
- **Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- **Fruit cover:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** unknown
- **Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**
- **Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- **Current year stem/twig color:** green
- **Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**
- **Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- **Soil tolerances:** alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
- **Drought tolerance:** moderate
- **Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- **Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**
- **Roots:** usually not a problem
- **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:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**
Crepe jasmine is a good choice for use in a shrubbery border or as a specimen planting. Its rounded form makes it a good foundation plant. The glossy foliage makes it nicely suited for any prominent position in the landscape.

Crepe jasmine grows well in full sun or partial shade (plants look better in partial shade) on any moist but well-drained soil, requiring less water once established. Plant on 4- to 5-foot centers to form a mass planting. The plant is best suited for acid soil, but regular fertilizing can help prevent chlorosis on slightly alkaline soil. It requires frequent fertilization in highly alkaline soils.

Propagation is by cuttings.

**Pests and Diseases**
Pest problems include scales, sooty-mold, mites, and nematodes.

No diseases are of major concern.