Introduction
This sprawling, evergreen shrub or small ornamental tree ranges from 10 to 15 feet (20 feet with proper training) in height. It can be trimmed to any size and still put on a vivid, year-long flower display. The dark green, velvety, four to six-inch-long leaves have several prominent longitudinal veins instead of the usual one, and are often edged in red. Large, royal purple blossoms, flaring open to five inches, are held on terminal panicles above the foliage, creating a spectacular sight when in full bloom. Some flowers are open throughout the year but they are especially plentiful from May to January. Princess-Flower is ideal for the mixed shrubbery border or used in small groupings to compound the impact of bloom-time.

General Information
Scientific name: *Tibouchina urvilleana*
Pronunciation: tib-oo-KYE-nuh er-vill-ee-AH-nee-nuh
Common name(s): Princess-Flower
Family: *Melastomataceae*
USDA hardiness zones: 9B through 11 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Invasive potential: has been evaluated using the IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005). This species is not documented in any undisturbed natural areas in Florida. Thus, it is not considered a problem species and may be used in Florida.

Uses: hedge; deck or patio; screen; specimen; container or planter; espalier; trained as a standard
Availability: not native to North America

Description
Height: 10 to 15 feet
Spread: 10 to 15 feet
Crown uniformity: irregular
Crown shape: vase, round
Crown density: dense
Growth rate: moderate
Texture: coarse

**Foliage**
- **Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** entire, ciliate
- **Leaf shape:** lanceolate, ovate
- **Leaf venation:** bowed, parallel
- **Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen, broadleaf evergreen
- **Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches, 4 to 8 inches
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** no color change
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**
- **Flower color:** purple
- **Flower characteristics:** very showy

**Fruit**
- **Fruit shape:** round
- **Fruit length:** less than .5 inch
- **Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** brown
- **Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**
- **Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns
- **Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure
- **Breakage:** susceptible to breakage
- **Current year twig color:** green
- **Current year twig thickness:** medium
- **Wood specific gravity:** unknown

**Culture**
- **Light requirement:** full sun
- **Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** none

**Other**
- **Roots:** not a problem
- **Winter interest:** no
- **Outstanding tree:** no
- **Ozone sensitivity:** unknown
- **Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown
- **Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

**Use and Management**
Princess-Flower requires full sun for best flowering and will thrive on any well-drained soil when regularly watered. Its growth habit is somewhat weedy, requiring training and pruning to develop and maintain it as a tree. It can be trained as a standard or espaliered against a west-facing wall receiving at least five hours of full sun. It can also be trained on a trellis or arbor as a vine. Pinching new growth helps increase branching and will enhance the flower display.

*Tibouchina granulosa* grows larger (15 to 20 feet tall and wide) and is easier to train into a tree.

Propagation is by cuttings.
**Pests**
Some of its pests are scales and nematodes.

**Diseases**
Mushroom root rot in soil which is kept too wet.

**Literature Cited**