Browallia speciosa Browallia, Amethyst Flower[1]

Edward F. Gilman, Teresa Howe, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen[2]

Introduction

Browallia produces blue or white flowers over a long period of time. The plant prefers afternoon shade and has a height of 1 to 1½ feet. Over fertilization causes leaf growth at the expense of flower production. Browallia is suitable for hanging pots.

Figure 1. Full Form—*Browallia speciose*: Browallia, Amethyst Flower. Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

General Information

Scientific name: *Browallia speciosa*

Pronunciation: bro-WAL-ee-uh spee-see-O-suh

Common name(s): browallia, amethyst flower

Family: *Solanaceae*

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Figure 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun

Planting month for zone 8: May

Planting month for zone 9: Apr

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

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Uses: mass planting; container or above-ground planter; cut flowers; cascading down a wall

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

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Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
Credits: undefined

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: not applicable

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: not applicable

Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: blue; purple

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

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance:

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: not applicable

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

The seed germinates in two to three weeks at temperatures of 75°F. Do not cover the seed with soil. The plants can be pinched to encourage bushiness. Browallia needs to be hardened off before planting outside. In USDA hardiness zones 10 and 11, plant in the fall for winter bloom.