

# *Tabernaemontana divaricata* Crepe Jasmine, Pinwheel Flower<sup>1</sup>

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## 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. 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.



Figure 1. Full Form—*Tabernaemontana divaricata*: Crepe jasmine, pinwheel flower.

Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Leaf—*Tabernaemontana divaricata*: Crepe jasmine, pinwheel flower.

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Figure 3. Flower—*Tabernaemontana divaricata*: Crepe jasmine, pinwheel flower.

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## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Tabernaemontana divaricata*

**Pronunciation:** tab-ber-nee-mon-TAY-nuh  
dye-vair-rick-KAY-tuh

**Common name(s):** crepe jasmine, pinwheel flower, cape jasmine

**Family:** *Apocynaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Figure 4)

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

**Origin:** native to temperate and tropical Asia

**Invasive potential:** not considered a problem species at this time and may be recommended by UF/IFAS faculty (reassess in 10 years)

**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



Figure 4. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** 6 to 10 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 6 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

## 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

**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.