

# Verbena speciosa 'Imagination' 'Imagination' Verbena<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

This verbena is a perennial well suited for Florida landscapes, especially those that receive infrequent irrigation. It won the All American Selections award in 1993. Deep violet-blue or purple flowers borne in clusters at the top of this 12-inch-tall ground cover stand out against the soft, fine-textured foliage. They cover the plant with purple. Stems creep along the ground and root to bind the soil together, helping prevent erosion.



Figure 1. Full Form—*Verbena speciosa* 'Imagination': 'Imagination' verbena.

Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Leaf—*Verbena speciosa* 'Imagination': 'Imagination' verbena. Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 3. Flower—*Verbena speciosa* 'Imagination': 'Imagination' verbena.

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## **General Information**

Scientific name: Verbena speciosa 'Imagination'

**Pronunciation:** ver-BEEN-nuh spee-see-OH-suh

Common name(s): 'Imagination' verbena

**Family:** Verbenaceae

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous; ground cover

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

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Apr; May;

Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep; Oct; Nov; Dec

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** aggressive, spreading plant

**Uses:** mass planting; ground cover; attracts butterflies;

cascading down a wall; hanging basket

Availability: generally available in many areas within its

hardiness range

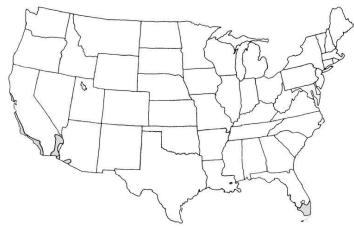


Figure 4. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

# **Description**

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 5 feet

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

### **Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

Leaf margin: lobed

Leaf shape: variable

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: semi-evergreen; evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not applicable

### **Flower**

Flower color: purple; violet-blue

Flower characteristic: flower season is longer in zones

9-11; spring flowering; summer flowering

### **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 full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

#### **Other**

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

**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**

To establish a solid ground cover, plant about 4 feet apart. Stems creep along the soil and plants will form a complete cover, 18 to 24 months after planting. Plant in the full sun for fastest growth and best flowering. Foliage remains dark green with little or no care once plants are established. Occasional fertilizer applications will help keep the foliage green and will promote flowering.

Verbena tenuisecta is very similar.

### **Pests and Diseases**

Few problems should impact this verbena.