Porterweed
Stachytarpheta

*S. mutabilis* Pink Porterweed

*S. jamaicensis* Blue Porterweed

*S. frantzii* Purple Porterweed

*S. mutabilis* Pink Porterweed
Stem & Leaf Type: evergreen, herbaceous turning woody (with time)
Size: varies by species 1-5’ tall; 1-5’+ wide
USDA Hardiness Zones: 10 to 12
Leaves: elliptic to oblong-ovate with serrate edges, often with prominent veins. Petiole is winged.
Leaf Color: Dark green
Flower Time: year round
Flowers: color varies by species. Blue to pink to purple in long slender clusters. Each flower last only one day, but many flowers means a show for weeks. Butterfly magnets!
Fruit: dry capsules linear-oblong in shape
Light: full to part sun. Abundant light indoors
Moisture: moist, well-drained
Insect/Disease Issues: None.
Nativity: Most species native to Central & South America—widely naturalized
Location in the Gardens: Butterfly Wing

Culture & Landscape Value: Grow as annuals or tropical perennials overwintered indoors. Plants grow easily and can be quite weedy in tropical locations. Maintain plants year after year by pruning back hard in late winter or early spring. Stems will get woody with time and will likely need to be replaced by starting new plants from seed or stem cuttings every 3 to 4 years. Individual flowers last only one day and will remain closed on dark or cloudy days. The plants will bloom year-round often taking a break in mid-winter, and again in late summer. These plants are butterfly magnets and using them as a nectar source in butterfly gardens is one of the primary reasons to grow this plant. Also plants do well in hanging baskets or large groupings. Plan to shear back regularly as most get unkempt with time.

Notes: The species most common in the nursery trade include:
Blue Porterweed (S. jamaicensis) 1’ to 3’ tall
Pink Porterweed (S. mutabilis) 3’ to 5’ tall
Blue Porterweed (S. urticifolia aka cayennensis) 3’ to 4’ tall
Purple Porterweed (S. frantzii) 3’ to 4’ tall

Months of Interest:

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