

# Porterweed

*Stachytarpheta*



*S. mutabilis* Pink Porterweed



*S. jamaicensis* Blue Porterweed



*S. frantzii* Purple Porterweed



*S. mutabilis* Pink Porterweed

# Porterweed

*Stachytarpheta*

Family: Verbenaceae

**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

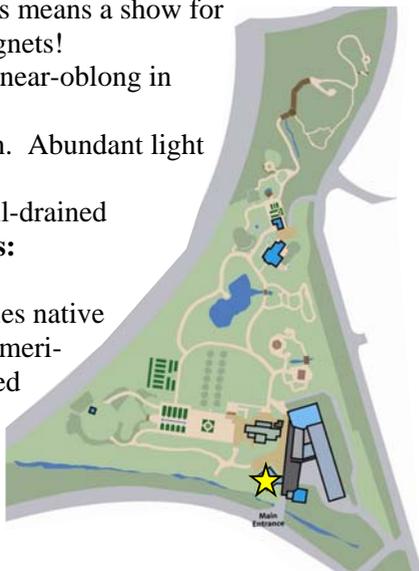
**Moisture:** moist, well-drained

**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:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec