

Botanical Name: Thunbergia grandiflora

Common Name: Sky flower

Type of Plant: dicot; vine Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a vigorous, rapidly growing vine; sprawling if unsupported;  
climbs by twining (no tendrils)

Height to 20' or more Spread equal Growth Rate very rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors prefers full sun in warm, humid, coastal areas; requires  
partial shade at inland sites

Soil prefers deep, rich soils; avoid strongly alkaline soils

Hardiness tender (zones 16, 21-24); regrows well after frost damage

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, ovate, 3"-6" long; blades rich green,  
flat, conspicuously veined; margins may be slightly toothed

Flowers pale blue, very showy, corolla is wide-funnel-shaped with  
flaring petals; throat of corolla white; flowers 2 1/2"-3" wide, in loose, open  
racemes; fall through late spring

Fruit a fleshy, pointed drupe

Propagation: seed, or hardwood cuttings

Usage: an excellent vine for tropical-theme gardens, valued for  
its luxuriant growth and heavy flower display; good for arbors, large  
trellises; best for large-scale gardens

Landscape Care:

Watering regular preferred; tolerates heavy

Fertilizing balanced, in spring and fall

Pruning head back as needed to control overall size; thin out every  
2-3 years to remove thatchy undergrowth

Pests/Diseases relatively free; aphids and plant hoppers in late spring-  
summer

Special Conditions

Origin: Tropical India Family: Acanthaceae