

Botanical Name: Ruellia brittoniana

Common Name: Mexican petunia

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright herbaceous perennial with fleshy stems and dense form; deep purple flowers held toward ends of branches appear throughout the warm season

Height 3 to 4' Spread 3 to 4' Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full sun or light shade

Soil prefers good drainage

Hardiness some frost -- zones 8,9, 14-24

Morphology:

Leaves narrowly elliptical to 2" long, 1/2" across, oppositely arranged and densely set on purple stems

Flowers bell-shaped purple flowers to 1-1/2" across, borne heavily during spring and summer

Fruit inconspicuous capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings at any time of year

Usage: filler or facer for heavy bloom, drought tolerant gardens
perennial borders, tropical theme landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering but tolerates much drought when established

Fertilizing low nitrogen fertilizer in spring

Pruning head back to encourage bushy growth, thin out older stems

Pests/Diseases aphids, scale

Special Conditions

Origin: Mexico Family: Solanaceae