

Botanical Name: Solanum rantonnetii (Lycianthes rantonnetii)

Common Name: Paraguay nightshade

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character semi-deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape loose, rounded to somewhat sprawling plant if unpruned,  
slender stems erect or arching outwards to produce a mostly open canopy, grows  
in a vine-like fashion with support

Height 6-10' (15') Spread equal + Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil tolerates most except highly alkaline

Hardiness some frost (zones 12,13,15-24); prefers warm, coastal areas

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, ovate-elliptic-rhombic, 3-4" long,  
bright green, slightly undulate, slightly hairy lower surfaces

Flowers deep, blue-purple, 5 united petals, yellow center, widely  
bell-shaped, mostly solitary, terminal, 1" diameter -- summer

Fruit berry, small, 1/4" diameter, blue-black (red)

Propagation: semihardwood cuttings

Usage: loose background mass or screen, trained into espalier or  
small tree--used as accent for flowers and long blooming period, small loose  
vine, tropical landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular, tolerates short period of drought

Fertilizing balanced in spring and summer

Pruning to shape desired; head back in winter--needs shaping

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: Argentina Family: Solanaceae