

Botanical Name: Pentas lanceolata

Common Name: Pentas, Star clusters

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Rubiaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Upright, somewhat rangy perennial with a woody sub-structure;
plant becomes covered with clusters of brightly colored star-shaped flowers

Height to 5 ft. Spread to 5 ft. Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun; requires warm location for best performance

Soil prefers good drainage; may rot in waterlogged soils

Hardiness tender; zones 23 and 24 only; used as an annual in other zones

Morphology:

Leaves ovate to lanceolate, oppositely arranged, to 3 1/2" long, dark
green and deeply veined above, lighter green, somewhat hairy beneath

Flowers tiny star-like flowers in red, magenta, pink or white,
arranged in terminal corymbs throughout the warm season

Fruit tiny capsule

Propagation: very easy from stem cuttings during the warm season

Usage: widely used as an annual or perennial for dense flowers in
'hot' colors; works in tropical beds, perennial borders or as a container or
specimen plant, sometimes even as a houseplant

Landscape Care:

Watering needs regular watering, not drought tolerant

Fertilizing balanced or low nitrogen fertilizer monthly during warm season

Pruning head back hard after danger of frost has passed; deadhead often

Pests/Diseases root rot where drainage is poor, cold damage is common

Other _____

Origin: Tropical Africa