

Asiatic Jasmine

Trachelospermum asiaticum

The small, dark green glossy leaves of dwarf jasmine have prominent veins of a lighter green. The slender, wiry stems simply sprawl on the ground, providing a dense groundcover within two years after planting in full sun, slower in shade. The small, pale yellow, star-shaped, very fragrant blooms are rare in Florida.



General Information

Pronunciation: tray-kell-loe-SPER-mum ay-shee-AT-tickkum

Common name(s): Dwarf Jasmine, Small-Leaf Confederate Jasmine, Asiatic Jasmine

Family: Apocynaceae

Plant type: vine

USDA hardiness zones: 7B through 10

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: cascading down a wall

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple Trunk and Branches

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: variegated

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

Fruit shape: pod or pod-like

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Trachelospermum asiaticum -- Dwarf Jasmine

Use and Management

Growing in full sun to partial shade, dwarf jasmine does best on rich soil with ample moisture but will tolerate less ideal conditions. Plant on 18-inch centers. Pruning along sidewalks and other edges is necessary to control growth. The stems do not climb, so this ground cover is ideal for planting round and beneath shrubs and trees. Propagation is by semi-hardwood cuttings placed in mist beds with rooting hormone treatment. Dense stands can be cut like sod to transplant to other areas. Scales or whiteflies followed by sooty mold can be a minor problem for dwarf jasmine.

Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.

by Edward F. Gilman