**Gaura lindheimeri**

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**Introduction**

Gaura lindheimeri is a fine-textured, vase-shaped, 18-to 36-inch-tall perennial with wand-like flowering stalks that grow 5 feet tall (Fig. 1). The light green leaves are 1 ½ to 3 inches long. Pinkish white flowers occur in spikes that continue to elongate during the bloom period with only a few flowers in bloom at the same time. The older flowers drop off the spike and are replaced by new ones throughout the long blooming season (spring, summer and fall). Though not a spectacular plant, the delicate flowers on long stems add a light airy look to the perennial border. Gaura may also be used as a specimen plant in a small garden.

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**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** Gaura lindheimeri
- **Pronunciation:** GAR-ruh lind-HYE-mur-eye
- **Common name(s):** Gaura
- **Family:** Onagraceae
- **Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 9 (Fig. 2)
- **Planting month for zone 7:** May; Jun
- **Planting month for zone 8:** Apr; May
- **Planting month for zone 9:** Mar; Apr
- **Origin:** native to North America
- **Uses:** specimen; mass planting; border
- **Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

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**Description**

- **Height:** 1 to 3 feet
- **Spread:** 2 to 3 feet
- **Plant habit:** round; spreading
- **Plant density:** open
- **Growth rate:** moderate
- **Texture:** fine

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1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-224, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement**: alternate
- **Leaf type**: simple
- **Leaf margin**: entire
- **Leaf shape**: lanceolate
- **Leaf venation**: pinnate
- **Leaf type and persistence**: deciduous
- **Leaf blade length**: 2 to 4 inches
- **Leaf color**: green
- **Fall color**: not applicable
- **Fall characteristic**: not applicable

**Flower**

- **Flower color**: pink white
- **Flower characteristic**: spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering

**Fruit**

- **Fruit shape**: unknown
- **Fruit length**: unknown
- **Fruit cover**: unknown
- **Fruit color**: unknown

**Fruit characteristic**: inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches**: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- **Current year stem/twig color**: green
- **Current year stem/twig thickness**: thin

**Culture**

- **Light requirement**: plant grows in full sun
- **Soil tolerances**: acidic; sand; loam; clay;
- **Drought tolerance**: high
- **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: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Gaura requires full sun to partial shade and a well-drained soil. Do not move this perennial once it is planted; Gaura has a deep carrot-like root that does not transplant well. Gaura’s long tap root allows it to survive drought situations.

*Gaura lindheimeri* is easily propagated by seed.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

Figure 3. Flower of Gaura