



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Tabernaemontana divaricata¹

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Introduction

This round, evergreen, well-branched shrub has large, glossy, dark green leaves and waxy white, ruffle-edged flowers which are especially fragrant at night (Fig. 1). Flower petals curve like a pinwheel and they are very prominent throughout the warm months of the year. Stems bleed a milky sap when injured.

General Information

Scientific name: *Tabernaemontana divaricata*

Pronunciation: tab-ber-nee-mon-TAY-nuh dye-vair-rick-KAY-tuh

Common name(s): Crepe-Jasmine, Pinwheel Flower

Family: *Apocynaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: mass planting; specimen; container or above-ground planter; hedge; foundation; trained as a standard

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

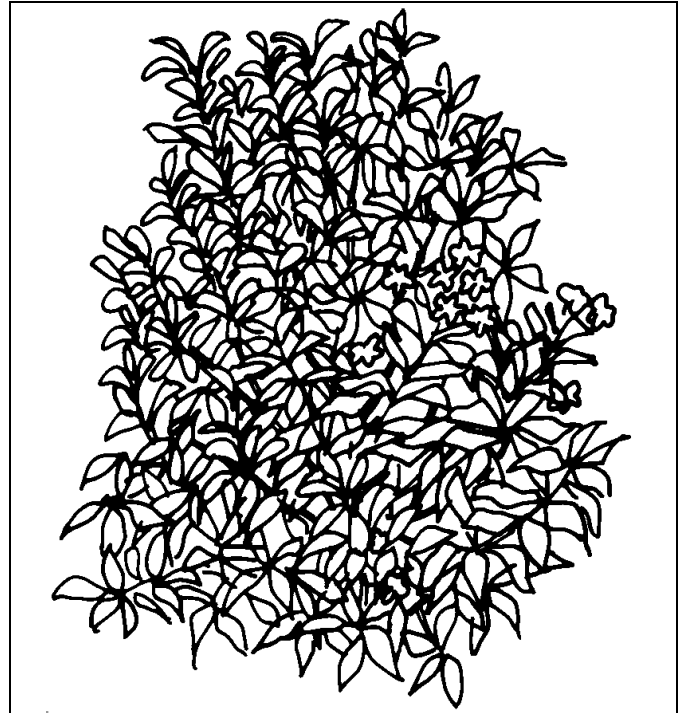


Figure 1. Crepe-Jasmine.

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: oblong

Description

Height: 6 to 10 feet

Spread: 3 to 6 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white
Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; year-round flowering

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 and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

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: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem
Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Crepe-Jasmine is a good choice for use in a shrubbery border or as a specimen planting. Its rounded form makes it a good foundation plant. The glossy foliage makes it nicely suited for any prominent position in the landscape.

Crepe-Jasmine grows well in full sun or partial shade (plants look better in partial shade) on any moist but well-drained soil, requiring less water once established. Plant on 4 to 5-foot centers to form a mass planting. The plant is best suited for acid soil, but regular fertilizing can help prevent chlorosis on slightly alkaline soil. It requires frequent fertilization in highly alkaline soils.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Pest problems include scales, sooty-mold, mites, and nematodes.

Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.