



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Brugmansia* spp.<sup>1</sup>**

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### **Introduction**

This small tree with large, 6- to 8-inch-long, simple leaves makes a dramatic statement in any landscape. Reaching perhaps to 15 feet tall, this densely foliated plant puts on a no less than spectacular show when in full bloom in summer and fall. Flowers hang from the stems and branches and drape the plant with orange, white or yellow for a number of weeks. Flowers can be up to 12 inches long. At one time the plant was known as *Datura*. Some nurseries continue to sell it as *Datura*.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Brugmansia* spp.

**Pronunciation:** brug-MAN-see-uh species

**Common name(s):** Angel's Trumpet-Tree

**Family:** *Solanaceae*

**Plant type:** tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 1)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** trained as a standard; specimen; accent; border; near a deck or patio

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

### **Description**

**Height:** 8 to 14 feet

**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet

**Plant habit:** vase shape

**Plant density:** symmetrical habit with a regular (or smooth) outline and individuals having more or less identical forms

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** coarse

### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate

**Leaf shape:** ovate

**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:** pink; white

**Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance; summer flowering; spring flowering; fall flowering

### **Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** 3 to 6 inches

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

### **Trunk and Branches**

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Trunk/bark/branches:** can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk; no thorns; not particularly showy

**Current year stem/twig color:** green

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

### Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

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

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** not applicable

### Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** may self-seed each year

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

### Use and Management

Locate Angel's Trumpet alone as a specimen in the lawn or in a mulched bed with a ground cover beneath the canopy. Branches can be left to droop to the ground, or the plant can be trained to grow more upright by removing lower branches. With enough training and pruning, a small tree can be created forming a canopy over a walk or small patio. Trees trained in this manner are outstanding as the flowers hang from the stems overhead.

Full day sun provides the best flowering, although flowers form with as little as 5 hours of sun. They appear to tolerate alkaline soil well, but perform best with regular irrigation in dry weather.