Introduction

Although slow to get started, confederate jasmine is well worth the wait (Fig. 1). Eventually rather vigorous, this twining woody vine has small, shiny, dark green leaves which provide a very dense screen or cover. The intensely fragrant, pinwheel-shaped, pure white, one-inch blossoms, abundantly produced in April and May, extend well beyond the leaves. Confederate jasmine is ideal for training across the top of a doorway or on a trellis next to a porch where its fragrance can be easily appreciated. It can also be used to cover light posts, fences, or tree trunks.

General Information

Scientific name: Trachelospermum jasminoides  
Pronunciation: tray-kell-loe-SPER-mum jaz-min-NOY-deez  
Common name(s): Confederate Jasmine, Star Jasmine  
Family: Apocynaceae  
Plant type: vine  
USDA hardiness zones: 7B through 10 (Fig. 2)  
Planting month for zone 7: year round  
Planting month for zone 8: year round  
Planting month for zone 9: year round  
Planting month for zone 10: 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
Trachelospermum jasminoides -- Confederate Jasmine

October 1999

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white
Flower characteristic: 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 and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: green
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: 36 to 60 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

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
Use and Management

Flowering best in full sun, confederate jasmine will grow well in partial shade, thriving on a variety of soils. No special care is required of well-established plants, except trimming to keep it in bounds.

The cultivar ‘Japonicum’ has white-veined leaves which turn bronze in fall; ‘Variegatum’ has green and white variegated leaves, often tinged red and is hardier.

Propagation is by cuttings or layering.

Scales can be a problem, followed by sooty mold. Otherwise, confederate jasmine is very easily grown.

Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.