

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Blue Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)

Quick Facts

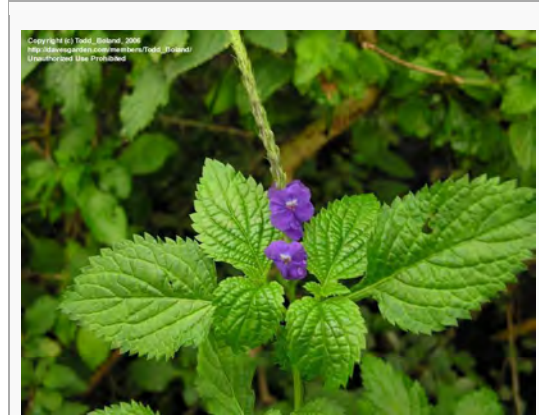
Origin: Tropical and Subtropical America.

Description: low-growing native perennial shrub, 2-3ft tall and 6 feet wide.

Harvest: All year.

Flower: All year.

Tolerance: Shade, flood, and drought tolerant. Sensitive to frost.



General Description: A sprawling semi-woody perennial shrub. The leaves are dark green, simple, and lanceolate to ovate. The flowers are located on long herbaceous terminal spikes. The flowers are usually in clusters of 1-7 and are magenta-blue in color.

- **Native Origin:** Native to South Florida and the Caribbean, and from Mexico to Brazil.
- **General History:** This plant is the larval host of the tropical buckeye caterpillar, as well as an attractant to many other species of butterfly.
- **Distribution:** Tropical and Subtropical regions around the world.
- **Season of Harvest:** All year round, but flower production is slow from December to February due to cold weather.
- **Culinary Uses:** The flowers can be eaten raw and have a distinct mushroom flavor.

Blue Porterweed
Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Plantae
(unranked): Angiosperms
(unranked): Eudicots
(Unranked): Asterids
Order: Lamiales
Family: Verbenaceae
Genus: *Stachytarpheta*
Species: ***S. jamaicensis***

Sources

http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Blue_porterweed.pdf
<http://www.eattheweeds.com/blue-porterweed-bottom-up/>

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