

## Plumbago (Plumbago auriculata)



**Native Range:** South Africa

**Sun/Shade:** Blooms more in full sun but is attractive in part-shade.

**Flowers:** Light blue flower clusters from late spring intermittently through fall.

**Landscape Use:** Makes a good shrub substitute in warmer months and looks nice under the light shade of Live Oak trees or areas partially shaded by tall house walls. Makes a nice tall cascading groundcover or individual specimen. Does not look good balled or squared. Seems to look best with part-shade.

**Container Use:** Trails nicely out of a large pot, but let dry out some before re-watering and also fertilize.

**Size:** About three feet tall spreading out from new growth at the base. Three feet tall and wide in about two years.

**Type:** Perennial that returns faithfully after freezing weather in spring.

**Deer Resistance:** Not Deer resistant but is such a reliable plant that Deer browsing will not destroy it.

**Butterflies:** Butterflies love it.

**Drought Tolerance:** Very drought tolerant but looks best with regular watering.

**Soil:** Not particular about soil as long as it drains well and does not remain constantly wet. Does well in rocky soil or even better with soil enhancement.

**Water:** Smart Watering Principle=Water well when first planted then allow to dry slightly, without wilting, then water deeply again, etc. Easy Watering Principle= Water every day the first week; every second day the second week; every third day the third week; every fourth day the fourth week; every fifth day the fifth week. A soaking rainfall should last for about two weeks worth of watering. Do not keep constantly wet.

**Fertilizer:** Looks even better with regular fertilization.

**Maintenance Tips:** Cut off frozen stems to give it a fresh start in spring. Do not give up on the plant or think that it has been weakened by cold; it takes a while to get growing in spring but will make progress with warmth and time.

**Rating:** Rates high as a landscape plant.