

***Ipomoea stolonifera* Fiddle-Leaf Morning Glory¹**

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Introduction

The fiddle-leaf morning glory is a herbaceous vine that is native to the southeastern United States (Fig. 1). This plant, unlike the beach morning glory, can be grown throughout Florida and along the coast. It attains a height of 4 to 6 inches but can spread along the ground to a distance of 75 feet. The small, thick, glossy green leaves are ovate-cordate in shape and densely cover the stems. Most leaves are divided into 5 lobes in a more or less star shape. This plant roots and branches at the nodes and spreads very rapidly. The white, funnel-shaped flowers of the fiddle-leaf morning glory are generally 2 1/2 to 3 inches wide. They open in the early morning and close before noon each day during the blooming season; the flowers are borne in the summer and fall. Small, round seedpods that contain four velvety, dark brown seeds appear on this plant after flowering.

General Information

Scientific name: *Ipomoea stolonifera*

Pronunciation: ipp-oh-MEE-uh
 stoe-law-NIFF-fur-uh

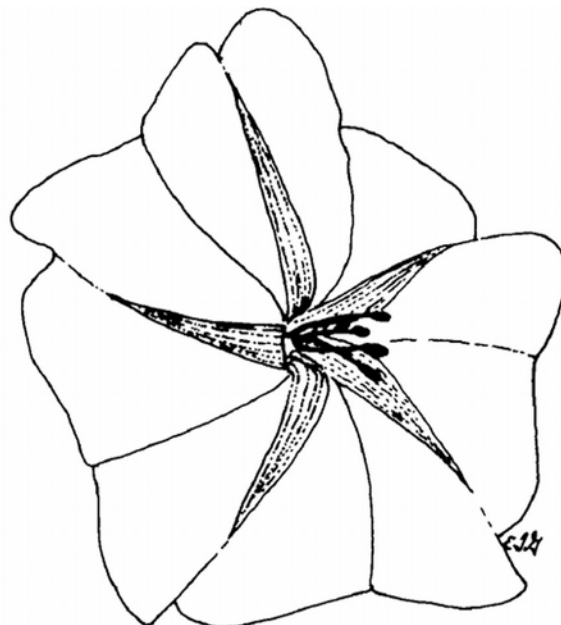


Figure 1. Fiddle-leaf morning glory

Common name(s): fiddle-leaf morning glory

Family: *Convolvulaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 11 (Fig. 2)

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-285, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999; reviewed May, 2007. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Planting month for zone 8: year round



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: ground cover

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading; prostrate (flat)

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: lobed

Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white

Flower characteristic: summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

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: thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; alkaline; sand; loam;

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: good

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

Ipomoea stolonifera is well adapted to beaches and coastal dunes. It is most useful as a sand binder in coastal landscapes. This vine is an excellent coastal ground cover and will also provide a screen or shelter if it is given a support, such as a trellis, to climb upon. Plant on 3-foot centers to quickly form a ground cover. It may not be well suited for home landscapes because it grows too quickly and has a very open growth habit.

This plant will flourish in full sun on well-drained, sandy soils. It is very tolerant of drought and salt air. The fiddle-leaf morning glory is a rapidly growing plant and requires frequent pruning.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.