

September/October Bloomer:
Tube Flower; Turk's Turban (*Clerodendrum indicum*)



Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, late September

Tube Flower; Turk's Turban; Indian Glory-Bower (*Clerodendrum indicum*)

Synonyms (Discarded Names):

Clerodendrum siphonanthus; *C. indica*

Origin: China, India, Indo-China, Malaysia, Philippines

Zone: 8A—12 (Minimum 10°F)

Growth Rate: Fast

Typical Height: To 12 feet

Light Requirements: Medium to high

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Salt Tolerance: Low

Soil Requirements: Wide

Nutritional Requirements: Medium

Plant Type: Semi-deciduous shrub

Flower Color: white

Flowering Season: Mid summer to fall

Propagation: Cuttings; seeds; suckers

Common Uses: Background; Specimen



Fort Myers, early October

Tube flower is a herbaceous, semi-deciduous shrub. It is an upright grower that will bend downwards when its lanky, pithy stems cannot support themselves. The plant produces few branches but many axillary and terminal panicles. Tube flower is not frequently seen in South Florida. As is the habit of Clerodendrums, it is a suckering plant. Despite this, it is an easily cared for garden resident. It comes well recommended. Propagation is by suckers, seeds, and rooted cuttings.

Leaves

The leaves are whorled, usually 3 to 5 leaves per node. The leaf margins are entire and the leaf shape is oblanceolate to oblong. They are commonly 6 inches long, but can be up to 12 inches long, glabrous and with a short petiole.



The leaves are oblanceolate to oblong and whorled.



A short petiole

Flowers

The flower is an inflorescence in the form of axillary, terminal cymes and panicles. The floret is salver-shaped and is commonly 6 inches long. The corolla is fused and slender. Florets are white to yellowish, with purple stamens, and lightly fragrant.



The inflorescence



Two florets and an unopened flower bud.

Fruits

The fruits are produced in the fall and winter. They are red or purplish and are borne on top of red to brown calyx. Fruits separate into four stones with a single seed in each stone.



Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, early October



Alva, Lee County, Florida, mid November



A single purple fruit.



St. Petersburg, early June



Flamingo Gardens, Davie, Early October

Useful Links

[What's Blooming fact sheets](#)

[South Florida Hedges](#)

[Flowering Trees Fact Sheets](#)

[Gaillardia/Blanket-flower YouTube](#)

All pictures taken by Stephen H. Brown

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