

**Scientific name:** *Tibouchina urvilleana*

**Family:** Melastomataceae

**Common Name:** Princess Flower, Purple Glory Bush

**Native Habitat:** Brazil

**Hardiness zone:** Zones 8-12

**Exposure:** Prefers full sun, but can tolerate some afternoon shade.

**Form:** Slender, upright, evergreen shrub or small tree.

**Soil Requirements:** Well-drained soil with regular watering.

**Growth Rate:** Medium to fast.

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet high and approximately the same in width.

**Leaf:** The 2 to 4 inch-long, 1-inch wide opposite, simple, leaves are covered in a velvety down that also covers the stem and calyx. Each leaf has 3 to 5 prominent midribs from the base to the apex, and often has a reddish tint on an otherwise pale green leaf.

**Flower:** The rich, royal purple flowers of *Tibouchina urvilleana* command attention and create a spectacular sight when in full bloom. The “Princess Flower” blooms sporadically throughout the year with a main flush of flowers in the fall. The 3 to 4-inch flowers are comprised of 5 spreading, overlapping, velvety petals and are borne on terminal, 3-forked panicles. These flowers are enhanced by 10 elbow-shaped filaments with dark purple anthers and 1 prominent, fuchsia-coloured, stigma that reflects the deep veining on the petals.

This popular conservatory plant makes its home in several places at Stonecrop, but is most noticeable in the End House where it has been growing in the ground for over twenty years. In the heat of the summer, smaller plants of *Tibouchina urvilleana* can be found planted in the purple areas of the Flower Garden, where it blooms until frost. Propagating the “Princess Flower” is very easy from either stem cuttings or by sowing the seed, both of which can be done in the spring. The seed of *Tibouchina urvilleana* is offered annually on Stonecrop’s Index Seminum. This versatile Stonecrop favourite is rarely without a bloom, and will add a richness of colour and texture to any garden and should make its way into every garden.

