

Pedilanthus tithymaloides

(Devil's Backbone, Japanese Poinsettia)

Devil's Backbone is a shrubby, perennial succulent, having a nice looking foliage, and a red to purple-red flowers during summer. Its stem has an attractive zigzag shape. The milky latex present in the plant is highly irritating and should stay away of mouth and eyes.

To be planted in well-drained soil, in full to partial sun. In hot summer afternoons, shade is preferred to protect the plant, as well as maintaining a moist soil.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Pédilanthé tithymaloïde, pantoufle

Pronunciation: ped-ee-LAN-thus tith-ee-mal-OY-deez.

Plant Type: Shrub, Cactus / Succulent

Origin: West Indies

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Hedge, Border Plant, Indoor, Rock Garden

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Weeping

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Brachidodrome

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Leathery, Fleshy/Juicy, Hairy

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Flower Type: Umbel

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Red, Purple

Seasons: Summer

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Low

Light Requirements: Full, Part, Shade

Management

Toxity: Yes

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Edible Parts: None

Pests: Mites, Mealy-Bug

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

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Bark Image



Other Image