

**Botanical Name:** Tibouchina sp.

**Common Name:** Lasiandra, Glory-bush, Quaresma, Princess Flower

**Family:** Melastomataceae

**Origin:** South America

**Flowers:** Autumn- Spring

Driving through my local area, Alstonville, one can't help but admire the beautiful small trees and large shrubs abundantly shrouded with flowers ranging from pink to lilac to deep purple. Tibouchinas are at their glorious best in our region now.

Tibouchinas flower spectacularly from autumn to spring. New foliage is shaded with red and bronze which turns to a rich velvet green. They are usually evergreen though a few leaves may turn yellow in the cooler weather. They prefer acid soil that is rich and well drained. They tend to legginess with brittle branches soon broken by strong winds so they do benefit from a prune or pinching out after flowering to promote bushiness and a good strong framework for larger varieties. They are frost tender and need protection.

Tibouchinas can be propagated by seed or soft-tip cuttings taken anytime during the warmer months. Plant in full sun or dappled shade in hot areas. Small varieties benefit from protection from hot westerly summer sun. Keep moist during warmer months.

There are 150 + species in the wild though cultivars of only three or four of these are widely grown. Common and most popular cultivars include:



**T. lepidota 'Alstonville'** Hybrid created by Ken Dunstan in Alstonville NSW

A small tree or large shrub to 5m with thick, woody branching stems and rippled, hairy lance-shaped leaves that are paler underneath. It has masses of violet/purple flowers in summer and autumn. They prefer a shelter position for best flowering. T.'Alstonville variegata' is a variegated form.



### **T.heteromalla 'Jules'**

A quick growing small shrub 1mx 1m that is free flowering with brilliant masses of rich purple flowers with a touch of white. It is suitable for containers or garden beds.



### **T. granulosa rosea 'Kathleen'**

Vigorous, rounded shrub to small tree with long, shiny dark green leaves and clusters of mauve/pink flowers.



**T. mutabilis 'Noelene'**- another member from the Dunstan family

A large shrub or small tree to 6m x 6m, this tibouchina produces white flowers which transform and become pink as they mature so there is masses of colour variation in full flower.



### **T. heteromalla 'Carol Lyn' (= 'Jazzie™')**

Another small-growing variety with deep purple flowers with a white eye.

(Photo source: PGA.com.au)



### **T. 'Groovy Baby'**

Most compact variety currently available. It produces large, vibrant purple flowers throughout warmer months with attractive evergreen foliage which is accentuated by seasonal copper tones.

(Photo source: PGA.com.au)



### **T. 'Cool Baby'**

A very compact variety producing masses of stunning large pink and white flowers in both spring and autumn. Bred for tropical to cool regions

(Photo source: PGA.com.au)



### **T. 'Peace Baby'**

A very compact variety producing masses of white flowers throughout warmer months. Bred for tropical to cool regions.

(Photo source: PGA.com.au)