

# Purple passionflower

(*Passiflora incarnata*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Purple passionflower, also known as maypop, is an herbaceous, perennial vine that can be prostrate or climbing by way of axillary tendrils. The flower is extraordinarily intricate, with 10 lavender tepals, a purple-and-white-fringed corona, and a central “crown” of pink filaments, resembling something out of a Dr. Seuss book. The leaves are deeply three-lobed, alternately arranged, with dark green upper and whitish lower surfaces. The fruit is a large yellow-orange berry with edible pulp that is typically borne in late summer to fall. The entire plant has known medicinal uses.

Purple passionflower occurs naturally in open hammocks, along roadsides and in disturbed areas. It is the larval host plant of several butterflies including the Gulf fritillary and Zebra longwing.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo

**Family:** Passifloraceae

**Native range:** Nearly throughout

To see where natural populations of Purple passionflower have been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

**Hardiness:** Zones 7–10b

**Soil:** Well-drained, acidic to loamy soils

**Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

**Growth habit:** 3–10' long

**Propagation:** Seed, cuttings, division of root suckers

**Garden tips:** Purple passionflower can spread vigorously on its own, covering a lot of ground in a short time. It is deciduous and will usually die back in the winter, is drought tolerant and moderately salt tolerant.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo

Purple passionflower seeds are often available from the Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative at [www.FloridaWildflowers.com](http://www.FloridaWildflowers.com). Plants are occasionally available at nurseries that specialize in native plants. Visit [PlantRealFlorida.org](http://PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a native nursery on your area.