



**Socotra Ruellia**  
*Ruellia insignis*

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 8b

**Description:**

This large shrub or small tree is quite adaptable, tolerating full or partial sun and moist to dry conditions in any kind of soil; lavender flowers set against the tiny, oval green foliage all season

**Ornamental Features**

Socotra Ruellia features dainty lavender trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from early spring to late fall. It has dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The small oval leaves remain dark green throughout the winter. The smooth gray bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

**Landscape Attributes**

Socotra Ruellia is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Socotra Ruellia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Socotra Ruellia* flowers  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Socotra Ruellia*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

### **Planting & Growing**

Socotra Ruellia will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Socotra Ruellia makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.