

**Taxonomy:**

Order: Lamiales  
Family: Acanthaceae  
Genus: Thunbergia *grandiflora*

**General Information**

*Thunbergia grandiflora*, also commonly called Blue Sky Vine, Bengal Trumpet or Blue Trumpet Vine. Native to the Indian sub-continent, southern China and Myanmar and is believed to have been introduced into ornamental production by Kew Gardens. Today it naturalized in tropical south America and the southeastern United States



**Key Elements** 

To guarantee that your **Sky Vine** flowers during the season the four key elements that must be addressed are:

1. Fertilization..... Feed on a quarterly basis
2. Sunlight..... Provide bright exposure if not in full sun
3. Water/Irrigation..... Keep soil moist and do not allow to dry out
4. Pruning..... New growth is essential to compact growth & flowers

**Soil/ Planting**

- Grows well in rich, well drained acidic soil with a pH between 5.5 to 6.0
- For containers use a peat (30%) and pine bark (65%) mix with airtite. Incorporate dolomite at 5oz per cubic yard (10lbs per 60c/y) to lower pH level.
- Soil can be amended with cow manure

**Growth Rate & Habits**

- Fast, aggressive grower, runners can easily reach out 30' to 40' feet in a single season. It will quickly scamper up, over, and through its supporting structure. This vine grows large and does it quickly, providing quick warm weather cover to a trellis, fence, arbor, or any other support that is nearby. Care should be taken to provide adequate spacing to allow the plant to reach maximum spread at maturity

**Flowers/Season**

Blooms

- Profuse clusters of large 3” to 4” slightly belled rich medium blue trumpet shaped flowers with pale yellow and white throats.

Vegetative Cycle:

- In south Florida the vegetative cycle begins as soon as night temperatures drop below 70° F usually in early October through spring.

Blooming Cycle:

- In south Florida the flowering season for Sky Vine is spring (March) through fall (October)
  - Peak blooming times are April through late-September
  - Bloom begins to appear as soon as the nights come into the 70°F range

## Cultural Management

### Watering/Irrigation

- Water on a regular basis and maintain soil moist

### Exposure/Light

- Exposure:
  - Full sun or partial shade (will bloom less in dark exposures)
- Temperature:
  - USDA Zones 9 - 11.
  - Optimum temperatures are between a minimum 70° F night and less than 90° F daytime temperatures.
  - Chilling and light frost will burn the foliage and knock it into dormancy until spring

### Maintenance

- Spacing
  - You must allow plenty of room. Space vines 5 or 6 feet apart...or more
  - Requires structural support. Provide a trellis or other support for climbing
- Pruning
  - Cut back hard in early spring - mid to late March. Cut back the vines to the desired height at any time of year
- Propagation
  - Very easy to propagate from cuttings in warm weather.
  - Also from seed
- Invasive
  - In some areas of the world where freezes don't occur the vine is considered exotic
- Salt Tolerance
  - Slight
- Suggested uses
  - Trellis, Fence, Arbor, Basket, Large Planter

## Common Disorders of Sky vine

Nutrition	Pest & Insects	Diseases	Cultural	Other
Deficiencies Nitrogen	No serious problem	No serious problem	Heavy Shade	Elongation of internodes
Deficiencies Iron	Scale	Cercospora	Defoliation	
	Whitefly	Leaf Spots		
	Spider Mites			