



Coromandel

Asystasia gangetica (L.) Anders.
(synonym: *A. coromandelinnn* Nees)

Common names: coromandel, Chinese violet, asystasia

Native habitat: India; Malaysia westward to Africa

Characteristics

Coromandel is a vigorous, trailing, herbaceous perennial growing to about 12–24 inches high. It will climb shrubs, fences, and other objects to a height of 4 ft or more. It can be maintained as low as 3 inches by regular trimming or mowing. This dense, sprawling plant has opposite, ovate to heart-shaped leaves that are light green and 2 inches long. Its trumpet-shaped, light violet or white, 1-inch long flowers are borne in terminal clusters of 6 to 10 blossoms and appear during most of the year. The fruit is a small, oblong capsule.

Location

Coromandel is adapted to a wide range of environmental conditions. It can be grown in full sunlight and does well in partial shade but becomes thin in full shade. It tolerates a variety of soil types. It is reasonably tolerant of dry conditions once established but does best if regularly irrigated. Coromandel tolerates direct exposure to salt spray and alkaline soils. This plant can be very invasive in developed or natural landscapes.

Insect and diseases

Problems may result from nematodes, mites, and leaf-eating insects.

Landscape uses

Coromandel is one of the most vigorous groundcovers available in Hawaii. It is useful for slope or hillside



plantings because of its soil-binding root system. It is well adapted to partially shaded locations and is useful to cover bare stumps, large rocky areas, and small walls and arbors. It will climb and cover low shrubs, fences, and other low objects in the landscape. Use this plant with care, as it can become invasive and requires regular trimming to keep it in bounds and looking nice. Or, choose one of the other suitable groundcovers that do not have the potential to become a serious weed pest.

Propagation

Stem cuttings root readily in 7–10 days. Cuttings can be directly planted in the landscape, but establishment is much faster when using rooted plants.

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