



Trachelospermum jasminoides

Trachelospermum jasminoides is a species of flowering plant in the family *Apocynaceae*, native to eastern and southeastern Asia (Japan, Korea, southern China and Vietnam). Common names include confederate jasmine, star jasmine, confederate jessamine, and Chinese star jasmine.

Description

Trachelospermum jasminoides is an evergreen woody liana growing to 3 m (10 ft) high. The leaves are opposite, oval to lanceolate, 2–10 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ –3 $\frac{1}{8}$ in) long and 1–4.5 cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ –1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in) broad, with an entire margin and an acuminate apex.

The fragrant flowers are white, 1–2 cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ in) diameter, with a tube-like corolla opening out into five petal-like lobes. The fruit is a slender follicle 10–25 cm (3 $\frac{1}{8}$ –9 $\frac{1}{8}$ in) long and 3–10 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ – $\frac{3}{8}$ in) broad, containing numerous seeds.

Cultivation

Trachelospermum jasminoides is commonly grown as an ornamental plant and houseplant. In gardens, public landscapes, and parks it is used as a climbing vine, a groundcover, and a fragrant potted plant on terraces and patios. It will flower in full sun, partial shade, or total shade, and requires well-drained soil (if constantly kept damp it may succumb to fungal infection), moderate water, moderate fertilizer, and a climbing structure (whether a trellis or another plant is secondary). Propagation is most commonly done with cuttings/clones.

It is widely planted in California and also particularly in the Southeastern United States, where its hardiness is confined to USDA Zones 8–10, the area of the former Confederate States of America, but does NOT actually provide for the name Confederate jasmine; that comes from Malaysia. It gets another of its common names, trader's compass, from an old Uzbekistan saying that it pointed traders in the right direction, provided they were of good character.

It is also called star jasmine in Europe and Chinese jasmine or Chinese ivy in Asia.

Uses

A valuable perfume oil is extracted from the steam distilled or tintured flowers and used in high end perfumery. In a dilute form, tintured flowers are much used in Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai incenses. A bast fibre is produced from the stems.