Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension
Teaching and Demonstration Gardens

Rue
Ruta graveolens

HIGHLY TOXIC, MAY BE FATAL IF EATEN! Grown as a host plant for Black Swallowtail, Anise Swallowtail and Giant Swallowtail butterfly caterpillars. Contact with the skin will cause short-term irritation. Ingestion can cause stomach pain, vomiting, exhaustion, confusion, and convulsions and can be fatal.

**Type:** butterfly host; poisonous plant

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 10

**Uses:** border; hedge; container or above-ground planter; butterfly garden

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Plant spacing:** 2 to 3 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** acid to alkaline; clay; sand; loam

**Drought tolerance:** good

**Soil salt tolerances:** low

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests or diseases

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