Blue Butterfly Bush
*Rotheca myricoides* 'Ugandense'

Blue butterfly bush, is a low maintenance, suckering, evergreen shrub. As its common name implies, the plant displays violet-blue flowers that resemble a butterfly in flight. This lanky shrub is not very vigorous and tends to have anemic green foliage. It has attractive light blue to violet-blue pea-like flowers and looks great grown in a container. The plant is easily grown in soils that are moist, well-drained, and have plenty of organic matter. It requires consistent watering and tolerates full sun to part shade, but performs best in part shade. It grows best in frost-free climates, as it tends to freeze to the ground in zones 8-9 or when temperatures dip below 25 F, but even if it freezes the roots can survive and rejuvenate in the spring.

**Type:** evergreen shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 through 11

**Uses:** border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; accent

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Height:** 6 to 10 feet  
**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Plant spacing:** 36 to 48 inches

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

**Soil tolerances:** slightly acid to alkaline; high organic matter

**Drought tolerance:** low

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** no known serious insect or disease problems are associated with this plant

Photos: Beth Bolles, UF/IFAS Extension Escambia County

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