Carolina Jessamine
*Gelsemium sempervirens*

In the wild, Carolina jessamine is typically found in open woodlands and along roadsides. The trumpet-shaped flowers put out a sweet fragrance, making the vine attractive for pollinators and gardeners alike. This native vine blooms in late winter to early spring and is a lovely vine to train up arbors, fences, pergolas, and trellises. It covers these structures quickly but is fairly easy to keep in bounds. The sap can be a skin irritant for some individuals. All parts of the plant contain strychnine-related toxins and are poisonous. It is toxic to livestock. Recent research suggests that the plant’s nectar may be toxic to honeybees if gathered in large amounts.

**Type:** evergreen vine

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 9

**Uses:** trellising; container or above-ground planter; ground cover; erosion control

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** to 20 feet  
**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

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

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

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** high

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** few disease or insect problems

Photo: UF/IFAS

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