

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

**MORE
INFORMATION**



Photo: UF/IFAS