

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE**Native & Non-Native Porterweed**

Photos by
Roger Hammer,
except where noted
otherwise

NATIVE

Light purple-blue flowers



There are a variety of non-native porterweeds available, ranging in color from pink to orange-red and deep purple blue. There is only one native blue porterweed, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*. The most common non-native blue porterweed, *Stachytarpheta urticifolia*, is often sold as native, but is easily distinguished by its upright growth habit and darker blue flowers.



Spreading, not upright

Native Blue Porterweed

Stachytarpheta jamaicensis

Blooming nearly year round, native blue porterweed flowers provide nectar for butterflies and add a delicate sprinkling of lavender blue in your flowerbed. Rarely exceeding 2' in height, native blue porterweed has a low spreading habit and is usually much wider than tall (can reach 3' across or more). Native to pine rocklands, shell middens, and dunes of Central and South Florida, blue porterweed does well in dry, open sandy areas. It is moderately salt tolerant, prefers full sun but tolerates partial shade, and requires no supplemental irrigation once established. Native blue porterweed will seed in the garden, but does not do so heavily.

Inset photo by S

NON-NATIVE

Dark purple-blue flowers



Upright, reaching 5 ft. or higher

Non-native Blue Porterweed

Stachytarpheta urticifolia

The most commonly sold blue porterweed, and often mislabeled as a native, this plant has deep, dark purple-blue flowers and a fast-growing upright habit. It seeds readily and frequently in the garden, with a tendency to be weedy.