

---

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH404



### GAURA

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

Thomas M. Blessington, David L. Clement, and Kevin G. Williams  
Central Maryland Research and Education Center  
University of Maryland

#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Wand Flower
- Scientific name: *Gaura lindheimeri*
- Native to Texas, Louisiana, and Mexico
- Herbaceous perennial growing in a bushy clump 2-4' tall
- Slender, wiry stems are covered with spoon shaped leaves
- Flowers are produced on tall spikes that continue to elongate throughout the blooming period
- White flowers have four petals arranged to resemble a butterfly
- Flower petals turn pink before falling off at dusk
- Blooms from the beginning of spring until first frost
- Hardy in zones 5-10

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade
- Drought tolerant but requires well drained media
- In cold climates, mulch for protection during winter
- Prune during winter to prepare the bush for new growth in the spring

#### PROPAGATION

- Sow seeds early in spring and the plant will flower its first year
- Seedlings emerge 8-15 days after sowing
- Usually will self-sow once established

- Difficult to transplant due to a long taproot
- Cuttings should be started in a pot to ameliorate transplant difficulties; stems will root in four to six weeks

### **DISORDERS**

- Aphids
  - Dislodge with a hard spray of water
- No serious disease problems if planted in a well-drained site

### **CONSUMER CARE**

- Ideal for a wildflower garden or in the back of a perennial border
- Will re-grow and bloom a second time if pruned in midsummer
- Some varieties grow wild as weeds in the southeastern United States

### **CULTIVARS AND SPECIES**

- *Gaura lindheimeri*

- ‘Crimson Butterflies’: red stems of hot pink flowers
- ‘Passionate Rainbow’: pink flowers, green leaves edged white
- ‘Pink Fountain’: white flowers with pink blush
- ‘Sunny Butterflies’: Green stems hold pink flowers
- ‘White Fountain’: white flowers

### **References**

- [http://www.floridata.com/ref/G/gaur\\_lin.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/G/gaur_lin.cfm)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White\\_gaura](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_gaura)
- <http://www.paghat.com/gaura.html>

Mention of trade names does not constitute an endorsement by the Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland, College Park, or University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.