

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH426



VERBENA

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Vervain
- Scientific name: *Verbena sp.*
- Native to North and South America
- Grows in clumps that reach 6-10'' in height
- Opposite, toothed leaves reach 1-3'' in length
- Flowers form on slender stalks in summer or fall
- Flowers can be purple, white, peach, pink, or red
- Hardy in zones 5-10; can be grown as annuals in cold climates

- Requires full sun and well-drained media
- Drought tolerant; excess moisture promotes disease
- Fertilize once a year in spring
- Mulch for protection in winter

PROPAGATION

- Easily propagated from seed
- Start seeds indoors in winter or early spring
- Barely cover seeds with potting soil; germination requires about a month

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Space plants 10-12'' apart in the garden

- Stem cuttings can be taken in spring or fall and inserted in sand

DISORDERS

- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*)
 - White coating appears on leaves
 - Leaves wilt, brown, and die
 - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Leaf spot (*Alternaria sp.*)
 - Small yellow spots appear, enlarge rapidly, and turn brown
 - Foliage may wither and die
 - Maintain optimal plant conditions to prevent disease
 - Remove infected foliage
- Root rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*)
 - Leaves yellow and wilt
 - Roots turn brown and may decay completely
 - Remove infected plants
- Impatiens necrotic spot virus
 - Dark purple spots appear on leaves

- Remove and destroy infected plants

CONSUMER CARE

- Remove faded blooms to prolong the blooming season
- In cold climates, bring plants inside during winter
- Grows well in containers

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Verbena*
 - ‘Snowflurry’: white flowers
 - ‘Taylortown Red’: bright red flowers
- *Verbena canadensis*
 - ‘Homestead Pink’: pink flowers
 - ‘Homestead Purple’: deep purple flowers

References

<http://www.gardenguides.com/plants/info/flowers/annuals/verbena.asp>
<http://www.botany.com/verbena.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_verbena_diseases