

Passion Flower

Family –Passifloraceae (Passionflower Family)

Genus/Species –Passiflora incarnate

Pronunciation –pass-sih-FLO-ruh in-kar-NAY-tuh

Common Names –Purple passion vine,
Maypop, Apricot vine



Photo by Genie Lindberg

Plant Type – Perennial vine

Height – 6 foot tall.

Width – Vine that can be up to 25 ft. long. It climbs with axillary tendrils or sprawls along the ground.



Photo by Genie Lindberg

Soil Type –Sandy, loam; well drained

Light – Dappled shade, part shade and full sun

Dormant – In winter

Moisture – Low

Growth – Fast growing

Bloom – April to September

Colors – Purple, pink, blue

Form – Herbaceous vine that either climbs or sprawls along the ground.

The Maypops (seed pods) are the size of a small hen's egg. (2 – 3”) When ripe they have yellow-green skin and a juicy, seedy pulp



Photo by Genie Lindberg

Pollination Source – Insects, bumblebees

Additional Description – Edible. The fresh or dried whole plant has been used as an herbal medicine to treat nervous anxiety and insomnia. It was a food source for American Indians.

Fragrant

Maintenance – Remove dead vines at the end of the growing season

Propagation – Seed, cuttings, root suckers



Photo by Genie Lindberg

Leaves/Petal - Three-lobed, deciduous leaves are dark-green above and whitish below and 2¼ - 6” long. Alternate, stalked, with 2 conspicuous nectar glands on stalk near base of blade. Blooms are 3” across. They have a fringed crown in addition to 5 sepals, 5 petals, 5 stamens and 3 styles.

Wildlife value – Exclusive larval host plants for the Gulf Fritillary and non-exclusive host for the Variegated Fritillary Butterflies. Animal food source

Diseases – None

Pests – Pest free

Legends & Folklore – The plants were given the name Passionflower or Passion vine by early priests. The floral parts were said to represent aspects of the Christian crucifixion story, sometimes referred to as the Passion. The 10 petal-like parts represent Jesus’s disciples, excluding Peter and Judas; the 5 stamens the wounds Jesus received; the knob-like stigmas the nails; the fringe the crown of thorns.

The name Maypop comes from the hollow, yellow fruits that pop loudly when crushed.

The Cherokee Indians in the Tennessee area called it *ocoee*; the Ocoee River and valley are named after this plant.

It is the Tennessee State Wildflower.

USDA Native Status: Native to U.S.