

DURANTA ERECTA



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Duranta erecta, commonly known as Duranta or Skyflower, is an evergreen shrub belonging to the Verbenaceae family. The clusters of purple, blue, or white flowers that bloom throughout summer, combined with its drooping golden-yellow berries (hedge berries), give gardens an elegant appearance.



The species is native to Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America. As a natural inhabitant of tropical regions, Duranta is very popular in mild coastal areas such as the Mediterranean and the Aegean due to its preference for warm temperatures. It was named in honor of the renowned Italian botanist Castore Durante at the time of its discovery.

Cultivation and Uses

Duranta thrives in abundant sunlight; the more sun it receives, the more profuse its flowering becomes. It requires moderate watering and is highly tolerant of pruning. Thanks to its rapid growth habit, it can be easily shaped by gardeners. It is sensitive to frost, so in cold climates it should be grown in sheltered locations or kept as a container plant indoors.



In landscaping, it is commonly used to create colorful hedges or as a solitary (specimen) accent plant. In particular, the variety with golden-yellow foliage, known as 'Gold Mound,' creates an excellent contrast with other green plants. Its flowers attract butterflies and bees to the garden. Important note: the golden-yellow berries are toxic to humans and pets, so it is recommended to plant it at a safe distance from children's play areas.