

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Ruellia humilis* – Wild Petunia**

COMMON NAME: Wild petunia, hairy wild petunia, fringe-leaf petunia

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ruellia humilis* – Jean de la Ruelle (1474-1537) was an early French herbalist and *humilis* is from Latin referring to the plant's low-growing habit.

FLOWER COLOR: Blue – lavender

BLOOMING PERIOD: June through August

SIZE: Around here it is usually not over 12 inches tall.

BEHAVIOR: 5-parted flowers with a nearly 2 inch long funnel. The plant is relatively slow growing and spreading.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Well-drained soil and several hours of full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: This is the only species native to Wisconsin of the largely tropical Acanthus family. Wild petunia grows from Pennsylvania west to northern Indiana and Nebraska, south to Alabama and Texas. It is endangered in Wisconsin and with very few remnant populations.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Attractive flowers and non-aggressive behavior. The stems and leaves are hairy like other petunias. The flowers usually last only one day.

SUGGESTED CARE: Be sure to keep competing vegetation under control and remove accumulated thatch.

COMPANION PLANTS: It is mostly like found on dry hill prairies along with little bluestem, flowering spurge and other typical plants of the dry prairie.