

# Pink Mexican Petunia, Mexican Chi Chi

## *Ruellia brittoniana*



These are fast growing plants that bloom in a profusion of pink flowers when the weather starts to warm. Very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds! Plants reach 3' high and 2' wide. Will spread via seeds that are dropped after blooming, so allow room between your plants for them to spread. These are also easily rooted from brown stem cuttings.

Culture: Prefers fertile soil with moisture, but is very adaptable and can be grown in average, sandy soil equally as well and is actually quite drought tolerant.

Light: Sun to part shade. The quantity of blossoms is related to the amount of light the plant receives. The more direct sunlight the more flowers with fewer flowers appearing in overcast conditions or when grown in shadier conditions. Each flower only lasts one day, but there are always more waiting to open each morning.

Moisture: Average to moist. Mexican petunia is a water plant that becomes very aggressive with access to abundant moisture but is also perfectly suited to average garden/landscape conditions. Survives dry spells once established.

When growing Mexican petunia indoors water freely when in active growth but water only when dry in winter.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 8-10. Marginally hardy in Zone 7 if protected and mulched.

You should start your new plants in containers to allow them to get over the shock of the transplant and keep **in FULL shade** with **plenty of water for a few days**. Make sure that the roots are well covered with soil; original soil line is about 1/2 " – 1" above the top of the roots. When your plants have recovered (no longer show signs of wilting), plant out in the landscape in a sunny or partly sunny spot or you may continue to grow on in containers. As stated above, these can grow in damp or fairly dry conditions but to give your small plants a good start in the landscape, I suggest watering about 3 times a week until they are established and fertilize during the growing season (spring and summer) with a balanced fertilizer about once a month.