Herbaceous Plant Profile: *Phyla nodiflora*
Choosing the Right Plant for the Right Place

**Turkey Tangle Frogfruit**

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|---|---|
| **Latin name:** *Phyla nodiflora* | **Texture**: Medium [21] |
| **Common name:** Turkey Tangle Frogfruit | **Growth rate**: Fast[10,20,21] |
| **Flowers:** White to pink mini verbena-like flowers[10,20,21] | **Light:** Sun to part shade[10] |
| **Fruit:** Small nutlets which are rather inconspicious[10,21] | **Moisture:** Tolerates wet or dry soils[21] |
| **Height & Width**: Around 6" tall will spread 3ft+ in a growing season[10,20] | **Soil*:** Sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone. Poor drainage and saline soils[10] |
| **Type:** Perennial, evergreen in mild winters[10, 20] | **Zones**: 6-11[21] |
| **Habit:** Groundcover[*10,20,21*] | **Origin:** Southern half of United States, West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and South America[21] |
| **Wetland indicator category**:** FAC[10] | **Ecosystem benefits:** Larval host for Common Buckeye, Phaon Crescent, and White Peacock butterflies[21]. Nectar source for many other pollinators such as bees and moths[10,21]. |

(Numbers identify sources listed on page 2-3)

**Features:** Turkey Tangle Frogfruit is an insanely tough and vigorous plant, tolerating both moist and dry soils[10,20] . The nonstop mini verbena-like blooms provide pollinators with abundant nectar[21] . In warm winters and warmer regions, it will even bloom all year round[21] . It can be used as a "living mulch" if desired[20] . Frogfruit also makes a low maintenance turf alternative[10,21]**.**

**Siting**: *Phyla nodiflora* thrives in a wide variety of sites as long as it receives at least around 3-4 hours of direct sun[10] . It can take moist to dry soils and even occasional salt water inundation[21].

**Care*:*** Plant crown at soil level[18]. At planting, water the roots and surrounding area slowly and deeply. Keep soil moist until plant is established, then apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the root zone when the soil is dry or during drought. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3” of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the plant stems[18]. If used as a turf alternative do not mow while in bloom[10].

**Pests:**
Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met[10,20,21].

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (10/15/2023):

- ✓ USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml
- ✓ SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/

Ryan Schiller 10/15/2023

Plant Profile Template created by
Dr. Ellen Vincent

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**Image:**
**A)**

**B)**

**Image source:**
**A) https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=phno2**

**B) https://plantscomprehensive.com/phyla-nodiflora-aka-lippia-and-aka-kurapia-if-japanese-bred-lineage**

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(17) USDA. *Plant wetland indicator status.* (n/d). Retrieved from http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html

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(20) Schiller, R., Horticulture Student Clemson University, personal experience

(21) University of Florida, IFAS Extension, (2021), *Frogfruit, Phyla nodiflora Fact Sheet.* Retrieved from https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/monroe/docs/Frogfruit-Phyla-nodiflora.pdf

***Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".**

****2012 Plant Wetland Indicator categories (quantitative derived) http://plants.usda.gov/wetinfo.html**

| Indicator Code | Indicator Status | Comment |
|---|---|---|
| OBL | Obligate Wetland | Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands |
| FACW | Facultative Wetland | Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands |
| FAC | Facultative | Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte |
| FACU | Facultative Upland | Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands |
| UPL | Obligate Upland | Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands |