

## Propagation and Use of *Adina rubella*®

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### INTRODUCTION

*Adina rubella*, (Rubiaceae) Chinese buttonbush, or glossy *Adina* is from eastern China (2003), Japan (Woodlanders, 2006), and other parts of Asia. It is an upright open shrub and will attain heights of 8–10 ft with an equal spread. It occurs naturally along stream banks, ditches, and other areas of water, although there are conflicting references to the plants acceptance of poorly drained sites with Evans (2003) listing wet conditions as possible while others (SmallPlants.com, 2006) indicate such conditions can be deleterious. Evans (2003) also lists it with a hardiness of Zone 6 while others (Plants for a Future, 2006) stipulate that Zone 5 is applicable. In Zone 6 and higher the plant is user-friendly and will accept conditions from full sun to partial shade. Soil conditions do not seem to be particularly significant, with pH differences from acid to alkaline being tolerated.

The overall appearance of the plant is satisfactory with the bright shiny dark green leaves being a plus. Flowering is copious for most of the summer, but the small stature of the lightly fragrant flowers does not allow a strong presence. The flowers of *Adina* can be thought of to be miniature forms of the North American native, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, to which it is closely related.

### PROPAGATION

Cuttings of *Adina* were obtained in early September. They were about 4 inches long with 6–8 nodes. The soft tips were left intact. The cuttings were wounded and given a hormone treatment of 2000 ppm IBA / 1000 ppm NAA, [Dip 'N Gro 1 : 5, (v/v)]. They were stuck into individual pots with peat, sand, and perlite mixture (1 : 3 : 1, by volume) as a substrate. Bottom heat was provided at 70 °F and mist came on for 10 sec every 10 min during daylight hours. After 23 days, 75% of the cuttings had rooted. Over-wintering is not a significant problem.

### DISCUSSION

With the relative ease of propagation and the large adaptability to the soil and environmental conditions, this plant should be used more for specific areas even if its overall appearance does not rival showier plants. However, the potential for a Zone 5 hardiness and tolerance for alkaline soil conditions might make this a useful ornamental for the Midwestern plain states where the plant palate is not as large as what can be found in the Eastern parts of North America.

### LITERATURE CITED

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