

# CARE OF SCAEVOLA

## AUSTRALIAN FAN FLOWER



Scaevolae are a new and interesting plant from "down Under". There are approximately 25-30 different species found in Australia and nowhere else in the world. Scaevolae have become popular owing to their heat tolerance and pest resistance. They are very useful in containers and planters since they spread rapidly and provide deep blue flowers for the landscape. Other colors include pink and white, but the blue-flowering varieties are by far the best.

**Location:** SCAEVOLA prefer full sun, but can tolerate shady areas although they may not bloom as heavy. They prefer slightly acidic well drained soils with much organic matter such as peat moss and compost. Scaevolae will not tolerate frost so if there is a chance of frost, steps should be taken to protect the plants.

**WATERING AND FERTILIZING:** Scaevolae need a regular fertilizing schedule and large amounts of nitrogen. Like many Australian plants, any additional phosphorus is toxic. Never use bone meal on SCAEVOLA, since this is a source of phosphorus. Although SCAEVOLA can take dry and hot conditions, plants should be kept moist when grown in containers. Outdoor beds of SCAEVOLA prefer drier well drained conditions.

**INSECTS AND DISEASES:** Few pests bother SCAEVOLA. Mealybug may be a problem and can be controlled by any recommended pesticide. Root rot may be caused by stressing the plants, by allowing them to dry out too much, followed by heavy watering.

**ADDITIONAL POINTERS:** Although SCAEVOLA will bloom all summer, removal of dead spikes of blooms will encourage more side shoots to bloom. There is very little information on how successful SCAEVOLA are as winter house plants. The main shortcoming for indoor culture would be lack of blooms during the dark days of winter. For more info visit the Proven Winners web site at <http://> or the web site