Why we love it…

The Purple orchid vine is a superb garden and landscape performer. It offers a lavender-purple, unusually shaped, orchid-like flower sporadically throughout the warm season, but heaviest in the spring and fall. Unique flowers then morph into oddly shaped seedpods, which bear an uncanny resemblance to a butterfly.

With support such as a trellis or fence, they can reach heights up to fifteen feet. Without support, they grow into a mound, which can be kept as a shrub or groundcover. Purple orchid vine takes full sun well, but will also tolerate some light shade. It is quite drought tolerant, but responds well and grows faster with regular irrigation in spring and fall. Plant it by itself or with another vine such as queen’s wreath to have a lovely show of color for most of the year.

Lydia says: Prune Purple Orchid Vine back hard in spring to encourage revitalization or to reduce plant size.

Semi-Evergreen Vine: *Mascagnia lilacina*

- **Size (H x W):** 15-20 feet x 15-20 feet (with support)
- **Blooms:** Lavender in summer and fall
- **Exposure:** Full sun to part shade
- **Hardiness Zone:** 15° F, USDA Zone 8
- **Water:** Low to moderate
- **Pruning:** Winter to early spring
- **Growth Rate:** Moderate to fast