

## stephanotis

### BOTANICAL NAME

*Stephanotis floribunda*  
(stef-ah-NO-tis flor-ih-BUN-duh)

### COMMON NAMES

Madagascar jasmine, Wax flower, Bridal wreath, Floradora

### DESCRIPTION

These 1-inch-diameter star-shaped florets have an intense fragrance that is reminiscent of true jasmine (*Jasminum officinale*), which is how they came by one of their common names.

### COLORS

*Stephanotises* are available in white only. The flowers will appear ivory, near white or yellow as they mature and fade.

### VASE LIFE

With proper care and handling, *Stephanotis* florets can last for one to two days in wedding designs. They can last from three to five days if they are floated in water or if the flowers are still on the vine and placed in a water source.

### AVAILABILITY

*Stephanotises* are available year-round, with their peak seasons in the summer and autumn. Give growers and wholesalers several weeks' advance notice to ensure they will be available for off-season projects.

### processing

*Stephanotises* generally are sold as florets only. Take these steps to care for them:

- 1 Remove the florets from their packaging.
- 2 Float them in room-temperature water for 20 minutes.
- 3 Gently remove them from the water, and place them into a sealable bag or airtight container.
- 4 Blow some carbon dioxide into the container, and seal.
- 5 Store the *Stephanotises* in a floral refrigerator at no lower than 42 F for at least two hours before use. If they are kept in



S. FLORIBUNDA

Photo courtesy of the California Cut Flower Commission

### of note

**DESIGN TIPS** Many designers embellish *Stephanotises* by adding pearls or beads into the center of the trumpets. This is especially appropriate when a bride's gown has similar detailing. The beads can be glued into the center or strung on a "hairpin" wire. Some florists add decorative corsage pins into the centers. Although *Stephanotises* are available only in white, aerosol colorants work well if other colors are needed.

airtight bags or boxes with high humidity, they can be stored for up to one week at 42 F or above.

### special handling

These fragile flowers require a skilled and gentle touch. A good practice is to have wet hands while working with them. Antitranspirants can be used with *Stephanotises* to prevent dehydration.

### vase-life extenders

**WATER** *Stephanotis* florets do not take water up the stems after harvesting and usually are packaged in airtight containers with moistened, shredded tissue paper to keep humidity levels high.

**ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY** *Stephanotises* have a low sensitivity to ethylene gas.



STEPHANOTIS FLORIBUNDA  
MADAGASCAR JASMINE

### fun facts

**MEANING** The name "*Stephanotis*" comes from the Greek words "*stephanos*," which means "crown," and "*otos*," which means "ear," referring to the five earlike appendages to the staminal crown at the flower's center. The species name "*floribunda*" means "many flowers."

**FAMILY** *Stephanotises* are members of the *Asclepiadaceae* (as-kle-pee-ad-AY-see-ay), or milkweed, family. Relatives include *Hoyas* (wax plant), *Ceropegias* (rosary vine), *Asclepias* (butterfly weed) and *Oxypetalums/Tweedias*.

**ORIGINS** *Stephanotises* are native to Madagascar and tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia.

### when buying

Look for florets that are bright white, waxy and plump. There should be no signs of bruising, yellowing, spotting, mold or wilt. *Stephanotises* generally are sold as florets only, in groups of 25 or 50. Some growers pack "super" boxes of 300 or more florets and include the vines. These are the best buys. You can use the vines for today's cascading "waterfall" designs. **sfr**

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<http://hibiscus-sinensis.com/tropical/stephanotis.htm>  
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