

## ***Carpobrotus edulis* Ice Plant<sup>1</sup>**

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Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### **Introduction**

A common road-side ground cover in California, few test plantings of Ice Plant have been tried in Florida (Fig. 1). There is at least one planting in Clearwater. Those in California grow nicely in full sun in hot conditions. The plant stays low to the ground or will cascade over a retaining wall. Flowers are produced on a regular basis.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Carpobrotus edulis*

**Pronunciation:** kar-poe-BROE-tus ED-yoo-liss

**Common name(s):** Ice Plant

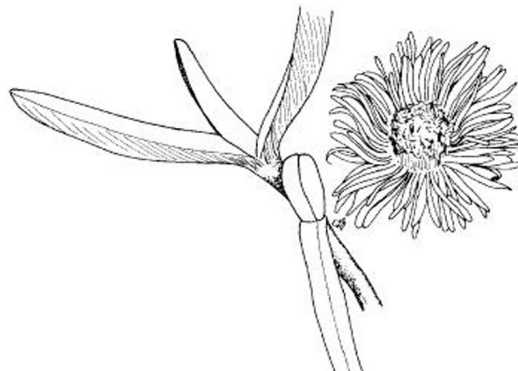
**Family:** *Aizoaceae*

**Plant type:** ground cover

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7B through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round



**Figure 1.** Ice Plant.

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** ground cover

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

### **Description**

**Height:** .5 to 1 feet

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  2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** prostrate (flat); spreading

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** lanceolate

**Leaf venation:** none, or difficult to see

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** pink; yellow

**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** unknown

**Fruit length:** unknown

**Fruit cover:** unknown

**Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig color:** green

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** very thick

## **Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

## **Other**

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** aggressive, spreading plant

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## **Use and Management**

Ice Plants are regularly irrigated in the desert, California climate. However, in Florida, root rot may be the greatest concern in an irrigated landscape. You might try locating it in a place where drainage is exceptionally good (on a sandy ridge) and where irrigation does not reach.

## **Pests and Diseases**

The plant has not been tested well enough in Florida to report on pest or disease problems.