

# Justicia betonica

## White shrimp plant

*Justicia betonica* L.

Family: Acanthaceae

**Description:** Shrub, 2–7 ft tall with purplish stems. Leaves ovate, opposite, 8 inches long by 5 inches wide, green, lower surface lighter. Flowers in spikes shaped like shrimp, white appearance because of 3 white bracts with green veins covering each of the lavender flowers, blooms year round<sup>(59)</sup>. Genus named in honor of James Justice, a prominent 16<sup>th</sup> century Scottish official and gardener<sup>(70)</sup>; *betonica*, betony, name of a number of herbs<sup>(5)</sup>.

**Distribution:** An ornamental originally from tropical Asia, found on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Lana‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i. First collected on Hawai‘i in 1943<sup>(70)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** Tolerates shade, forms dense stands in pastures and woodlands.



**Management:** Probably sensitive to hormone-type herbicides. Controlled by foliar application of low concentration of glyphosate product (Bryon Stevens, DOFAW).