

Brugmansia candida—Angel's Trumpet

Brugmansia or Angel's Trumpet is a genus of large shrubs or small trees and is native to tropical America (Columbia to Ecuador). It is in the Solanaceae, a family known for both edible (tomato, potato, peppers, eggplant and tomatillo) as well as very poisonous (nightshade and jimsonweed) members. *Brugmansia* also possesses poisonous sap and contains an alkaloid known as scopolamine. It is no more poisonous, however, than many other landscape ornamentals such as morning glory, oleander, Easter Lily, Chrysanthemum and Iris.

Brugmansia is an imposing beauty because of the sheer size of its leaves and flowers. The leaves are simple with entire margins and a velvety texture due to abundant surface hairs, or trichomes. The flowers are 6-8 inches long, are trumpet-shaped with five points and are gracefully nodding or pendant. Most species of *Brugmansia* have flowers that are strongly fragrant, especially at night. Color and form variations exist in the different species and hybrids. The colors range from deep red to peachy-apricot, pink, yellow,

golden and white. Some varieties have doubled flowers, wide or narrow trumpets and long or short points. Some have variegated foliage.

Since *Brugmansia* comes from mountainous regions in tropical environments, the ideal growing conditions are bright, broken light, high humidity, 80-85 degree temperatures in the day, moderate moisture and cool temperatures at night. They cannot withstand consistent, annual freezes and become wilted in 100+ degree heat. They are susceptible to snails and insects and must be sheltered from strong winds. Most species and hybrids do well in Riverside if protected from full summer sun. They are easily propagated from cuttings.

Brugmansia candida, or White Angel's Trumpet is planted in the median of Victoria Avenue between Van Buren and Myers.

