Falling Stars

Crocosmia aurea



Falling Stars flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 26 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Valentine Flower, Montbretia

Description:

Beautiful orange-red colored flowers nodding on tall spikes above iris-like foliage from early to late summer; attracts hummingbirds; prefers some shade

Ornamental Features

Falling Stars features showy nodding orange tubular flowers with red overtones and yellow throats rising above the foliage from early to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive textured sword-like leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Falling Stars is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Falling Stars is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Falling Stars will grow to be about 26 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Falling Stars is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.