Orange Flame Justicia

Justicia chrysostephana

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Orange Flame Jacobinia, Orange Flame Plume Flower

Description:

This dense, upright plant with attractive, ridged leaves, produces terminal clusters of bright orange tubular flowers all season; grown as an annual in colder areas; a shrubby evergreen in frost free areas; an excellent choice for containers

Ornamental Features

Orange Flame Justicia features showy clusters of orange tubular flowers at the ends of the branches from mid winter to late fall. Its attractive textured oval leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Orange Flame Justicia is a dense multi-stemmed annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Orange Flame Justicia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Orange Flame Justicia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Orange Flame Justicia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Orange Flame Justicia will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Orange Flame Justicia 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.