Firecracker Flower

Justicia rizzinii

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Spanish Flag, Brazilian Fuchsia, Firefly

Description:

A compact evergreen shrub producing candy-hued red and yellow tubular flowers from fall to spring; highly tolerant of heat and humidity, and drought tolerant once established; great for patio containers, or along borders

Ornamental Features

Firecracker Flower features airy panicles of scarlet tubular flowers with yellow tips at the ends of the branches from late fall to early spring. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The small fuzzy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Firecracker Flower is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Firecracker Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Firecracker Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Firecracker Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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



Firecracker Flower in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Firecracker Flower will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub performs well in both full sun and full 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.

Firecracker Flower makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.