Chuparosa

Justicia californica

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Beloperone, Hummingbird Bush

Description:

A compact shrub producing bright scarlet red tubular flowers from dark red buds, in spring; summer deciduous, and highly tolerant of heat and humidity; drought tolerant once established; great for patio containers, or along sunny borders



Chuparosa flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Chuparosa features airy racemes of scarlet tubular flowers at the ends of the branches from late winter to late spring, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds. It has grayish green deciduous foliage which emerges light green in spring. The small oval leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. The smooth gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Chuparosa
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Chuparosa is an open multi-stemmed deciduous 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, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Chuparosa is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Chuparosa will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America..

Chuparosa 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.