# Firestorm Copperleaf

***Acalypha wilkesiana 'Firestorm'***



*Firestorm Copperleaf foliage*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Fijian Fire Plant, Wilkes' Acalypha, Copper Plant

**Description:**

Grown as an annual in colder areas, this variety will grow up to 3 feet in one season; in frost free areas it can get larger; stunning deep burgundy leaves with red edges and orange highlights are impressive in the garden, or containers



*Firestorm Copperleaf foliage*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Ornamental Features**

Firestorm Copperleaf's attractive small serrated narrow leaves emerge light green in spring, turning burgundy in color with distinctive scarlet edges and tinges of orange the rest of the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

**Landscape Attributes**

Firestorm Copperleaf is a multi-stemmed annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Firestorm Copperleaf is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

**Planting & Growing**

Firestorm Copperleaf will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. 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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Firestorm Copperleaf is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.