Coralbush

Jatropha multifida

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 10

Other Names: Coral Plant

Description:

A dense evergreen shrub or small tree with age, presenting stunning clusters of coral red flowers that bloom most of the year; palmate dark green foliage is finely divided; a great hedge or screening plant in frost free areas; great in containers as well



Coralbush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Coralbush features showy cymes of coral-pink star-shaped flowers with gold anthers at the ends of the branches from late winter to late fall. It has attractive dark green foliage with pointy creamy white spines. The deeply cut round palmate leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The mottled gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Coralbush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Coralbush is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Coralbush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Coralbush will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub 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. 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 type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is 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..

Coralbush makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.