Brazilian Red Coat

Megaskepasma erythrochlamys

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Description:

A tropical evergreen shrub presenting erect spikes of flowers with showy red bracts in fall to mid-winter, with occasional year-round blooming; ovate, shiny green leaves have prominent veins; best in part shade; a beautiful landscape accent plant



Brazilian Red Coat flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Brazilian Red Coat flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Brazilian Red Coat features showy spikes of white flowers with red bracts at the ends of the branches from late fall to early spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The large textured pointy leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Brazilian Red Coat is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer 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 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;

- Insects

Brazilian Red Coat is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Brazilian Red Coat in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Brazilian Red Coat will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy, 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 20 years.

This shrub does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Brazilian Red Coat 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.