Fireball Flowering Maple

Abutilon 'Fireball'



Fireball Flowering Maple flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Chinese Bellflower, Indian Mallow, Parlor Maple

Description:

This indoor or outdoor variety produces stunning, fire orange flowers with scarlet red veins; pendulous, lantern-like blooms appear year round in frost free areas, contrasted by green maple-like leaves; attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

Ornamental Features

Fireball Flowering Maple features unusual nodding orange bell-shaped flowers with scarlet veins along the branches from early winter to late fall. Its attractive lobed palmate leaves remain forest green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Fireball Flowering Maple is a multi-stemmed annual with a more or less rounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Fireball Flowering Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Fireball Flowering Maple will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this 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 type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Fireball Flowering Maple is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.