Riot Red® Cape Honeysuckle

Tecomaria capensis 'Riot Red'



Riot Red Cape Honeysuckle flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 16 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: syn. Tecoma capensis

Description:

A striking variety, producing clusters of showy, long flowering, red trumpet flowers through fall and winter; a stunning landscape or garden accent; plant in sun or light shade, needs little water; an excellent hedge, or may be trained onto a trellis

Ornamental Features

Riot Red Cape Honeysuckle features showy clusters of lightly-scented red trumpet-shaped flowers along the branches from mid fall to late winter, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage which emerges coppery-bronze in spring. The serrated pointy compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Riot Red Cape Honeysuckle is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Riot Red Cape Honeysuckle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Riot Red Cape Honeysuckle will grow to be about 16 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 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 20 years.

This shrub 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, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Riot Red Cape Honeysuckle makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.