

## Baja Fairy Duster



### Baja Fairy Duster *Calliandra californica*

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: Red Fairy Duster, Flame Bush

#### Description:

This is an upright, fountain-like shrub producing fern-like, sea green foliage that folds up at night; scarlet-red, fan shaped powderpuff blooms appear from spring to fall, with sporadic blooming year-round; heat and drought tolerant once established

#### Ornamental Features

Baja Fairy Duster features showy scarlet pincushion flowers along the branches from mid spring to mid fall. Its attractive tiny oval bipinnately compound leaves emerge light green in spring, turning dark green in colour with hints of powder blue the rest of the year.

#### Landscape Attributes

Baja Fairy Duster is a multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Baja Fairy Duster is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



Baja Fairy Duster flowers  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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### Planting & Growing

Baja Fairy Duster will grow to be about 6 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. Although it is technically a woody plant, this slow-growing plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Baja Fairy Duster is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.



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