

Broadleaf Firecracker Plant



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Russelia sarmentosa

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

This broadleaf variety produces dense clusters of striking red-orange tubular flowers at the end of gracefully arching stalks; flowers better in full sun and is drought tolerant once established; great for containers and baskets

Ornamental Features

Broadleaf Firecracker Plant features showy spikes of scarlet tubular flowers with orange overtones rising above the foliage from late winter to late fall. Its oval leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Broadleaf Firecracker Plant is a dense multi-stemmed annual with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Broadleaf Firecracker Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Broadleaf Firecracker Plant will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing 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.



Broadleaf Firecracker Plant flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Wallitsch Nursery And Garden Center

2608 Hikes Lane
Louisville, KY, 40218
phone: 502-454-3553
www.wallitsch.net

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This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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. It can be propagated by division.

Broadleaf Firecracker Plant is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.