

Falling Stars



Falling Stars *Crocasmia aurea*

Plant Height: 26 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Valentine Flower, Montbretia



Falling Stars flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

Beautiful orange-red colored flowers nodding on tall spikes above iris-like foliage from early to late summer; attracts hummingbirds; prefers some shade

Ornamental Features

Falling Stars features showy nodding orange tubular flowers with red overtones and yellow throats rising above the foliage from early to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive textured sword-like leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Falling Stars is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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 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 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.

Falling Stars is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Falling Stars will grow to be about 26 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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 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 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. It can be propagated by division.

Falling Stars 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.