

Stonegate Gardens

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Schumann's Cuphea



Schumann's Cuphea

Cuphea schumannii

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Orange Cuphea, Hummingbird Plant

Description:

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with unusual scarlet-orange tubular flowers with tiny lavender upper petals, and extended stamens that resemble a tiny bat face; great for bedding, shrub borders, and containers in warm climates

Ornamental Features

Schumann's Cuphea features showy scarlet tubular flowers with orange overtones and lavender tips along the branches from early winter to late fall. Its textured pointy leaves remain forest green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Schumann's Cuphea is a multi-stemmed 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Schumann's Cuphea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Schumann's Cuphea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Schumann's Cuphea will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. 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. To help this plant achieve its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. 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.

Schumann's Cuphea 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.