



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Texas Firecracker Bush

Hamelia patens Sierra Red™

DESCRIPTION: This native of tropical Florida and South America is often called fire bush or firecracker bush. Sierra Red™ was selected by Mountain States Wholesale Nursery for its intense red flowers, compact habit, and short internodes. Other clones may range in color from orange to red. The lush oval green leaves complement the clusters of tubular red-orange flowers produced in the summer. Hummingbirds love this shrub, as do many species of butterflies. Dark purple edible fruit follow the flowers. The foliage turns a burnished copper red color in the fall. In the hot-test regions it remains evergreen, producing whorls of 6-inch-long glossy green leaves. If the weather turns cool, the leaves will develop a nice burnished orange color, and defoliate if temperatures dip below freezing. Most plants can be easily maintained at a 3 to 4 foot size.
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RECOMMENDED USE: Great accent, specimen and to attract wildlife.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Plants are root hardy to 10° F. In colder regions it will freeze to the ground, quickly resprouting in the spring.



Sun tolerance: Best in full sun but can take part shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate. Feed twice during growing season.



Soil requirements: It requires good drainage.



Pruning: Cut back frost-damaged stems in spring.