Acalypha wilkesiana
(Copperleaf, Jacob’s Coat, Fire dragon)
This large, fast-growing, evergreen shrub provides a continuous splash of color in the landscape with the bronze red red, heart-shaped leaves. Different cultivars have different unique color combinations in shades of red, copper, bronze, purple, white and/or green. The colorful leaves of these plant makes it fits perfectly as a specimen or accent plantings. The dense, much-branched growth habit creates a full shape but plants occasionally need strong pruning. The plant reaches 2.5-3 m in height therefore perfect for hedge plantation. The unusual, red, fuzzy, catkin-like flowers hang from leaf axils and are 10-12 cm. Copper-Leaf grows easily in full sun in frost-free locations. While tolerant of drought, it looks its best when provided with regular watering during drought and will grow on a wide variety of garden soils.

Landscape Information
French Name: Flore de La Réunion
Pronunciation: ack-uh-LIFE-uh wilk-see-AY-nuh
Plant Type: Shrub
Origin: Ceylon, Hawaii, Polynesia
Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13
Uses: Screen, Hedge, Specimen, Wildlife
Size/Shape
Growth Rate: Fast
Tree Shape: Round
Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical
Canopy Density: Dense
Canopy Texture: Medium
Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m
Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters
Time to Ultimate Height: 5 to 10 Years
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### Botanical Description

#### Foliage
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate  
- **Leaf Venation:** Pinnate  
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen  
- **Leaf Type:** Simple  
- **Leaf Blade:** 5 - 10 cm  
- **Leaf Shape:** Lanceolate  
- **Leaf Margins:** Serrate  
- **Leaf Textures:** Rough  
- **Leaf Scent:** Unpleasant  
- **Color (growing season):** Green, Variegated  
- **Color (changing season):** Green

#### Flower
- **Flower Showiness:** True  
- **Flower Size Range:** 10 - 20  
- **Flower Type:** Catkin  
- **Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)  
- **Flower Scent:** No Fragance  
- **Flower Color:** Green  
- **Seasons:** Summer

#### Trunk
- **Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage  
- **Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked  
- **Trunk Esthetic Values:** Not Showy

#### Fruit
- **Fruit Type:** Capsule  
- **Fruit Showiness:** False  
- **Fruit Size Range:** 7 - 10  
- **Fruit Colors:** Brown  
- **Seasons:** Summer
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### Horticulture Management

| Tolerance | Frost Tolerant: Yes  
Heat Tolerant: Yes  
Drought Tolerant: No  
Salt Tolerance: Good |
|---|---|
| Requirements | Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand  
Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral  
Water Requirements: Moderate  
Light Requirements: Part, Shade |
| Management | Invasive Potential: No  
Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No  
Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure  
Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No  
Surface Rooting: No  
Life Span: Less than 25  
Edible Parts:  
Pests: Mites, Scales, Aphids  
Plant Propagations: Cutting, Layering |

*Leaf Image*
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