

## 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.



© Photo by LDEM AUB

Plant Image

#### 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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Flower Image

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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

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#### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 10 - 20

**Flower Type:** Catkin

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Green

**Seasons:** Summer

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#### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Not Showy

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#### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Capsule

**Fruit Showiness:** False

**Fruit Size Range:** 7 - 10

**Fruit Colors:** Brown

**Seasons:** Summer

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Leaf Image

© Photo by Sarah Meouche

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### Horticulture Management

#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** No

**Salt Tolerance:** Good

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Part, Shade

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#### 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

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