

Acalypha hispida

(Chenille Plant)

The plant is filled with long, drooping catkins of velvety red flowers throughout the year. . It is a heat-loving broadleaf evergreen shrub native to Malaysia and New Guinea. The leaves are ovate, pointed at the tips, bright green. It is grown for its pendulous fluffy red flowers that look much like fuzzy caterpillars. Plant chenille plant in moist, well-drained soil (ideally a fertile sand) and provide full sun to partial shade for best results. Protect from arid air. Frost tender, light frosts may kill back the plant. It's an excellent plant for hanging baskets and containers when small, and in the rear of a mixed border. It may also be grown as a specimen in tropical regions.. Excessive watering often leads to the flower to becoming blackened with mildew



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Acalyphe, Ricinelle, Queue de chat

Pronunciation: ack-uh-LIFE-uh HISS-pid-uh

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Southeastern Asia, Melanesia

Heat Zones: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11

Uses: Specimen, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Container, Wildlife

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Spreading

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Coarse

Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

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: Glossy

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 7 - 10

Flower Type: Spike

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Green

Seasons: Year Round

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Year Round

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: No

Drought Tolerant: No

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Invasive Potential: 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

Plant Propagations:

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Bark Image



Other Image