

Hamelia patens

(Firebush, Scarlet Bush, Coloradillo)

Hamelia patens is a member of the Rubiaceae family also known for being the coffee family. It's a large, soft-stemmed shrub that is capable of reaching a height of 4 meters without support. It produces showy cymes of bright reddish-orange flowers, each about 2 cm long. The fruit looks like small a red berry that turns black after maturity. This fast growing, evergreen shrub is known for attracting so many different species such as bees, butterflies, hummingbirds.

Even though this plant is toxic, it has many medicinal applications. Depending on the country, it is used to combat or alleviate cancer, malaria, cholera, constipation, headache, jaundice, skin diseases, rheumatism and many other health problems.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Hamélie étalée, Buisson au colibri

Pronunciation: huh-MEE-lee-uh PAY-tenz

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Florida

Heat Zones: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Screen, Specimen, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Container, Medicinal

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Spreading

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m, 3 to 5 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Whorled

Leaf Venation: Brachidodrome

Leaf Persistence: Semi Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 10 - 20

Leaf Margins: Undulate

Leaf Textures: Medium

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green, Orange, Red

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Yellow, Orange, Red

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, Year Round

Trunk

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy, Smooth

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5, 1.5 - 3, 3 - 7, 7 - 10

Fruit Colors: Orange, Red, Blue, Black

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, Year Round

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: No

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: Yes

Invasive Potential: No

Edible Parts:

Pests: Mites, Aphids

Plant Propagations: Seed

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Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image