

Russelia equisetiformis

(Firecracker Plant)

Firecracker Plant is a weeping, spreading shrub with 1.5- m in height and 3 m in spread. The stems are green as they are taking part of the photosynthesis of the plants. The leaves are reduced to bracts. The slender, red, tubular flowers appear in the summer and hang on the plant like little firecrackers during most of the year and when in full bloom, look as if it is raining flowers. The fruit of Firecracker Plant are small, inconspicuous, and also hang in clusters. It is often used in the landscape as a groundcover or unclipped hedge or even in containers or in large hanging baskets and is lovely when cascading over a wall. The Firecracker Plant is tolerant of different types of soils as long as they are well-drained. It does require full sun for best flowering and fullest growth. Plants tolerate extended drought once established.



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Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Russélie à feuilles de prêle, Plante corail

Pronunciation: russ-SEEL-lee-uh eck-kwiss-see-tiff-FORmiss

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Mexico

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

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

Uses: Specimen, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Container, Wildlife, Erosion control, Facade

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Spreading, Weeping

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Fine

Height at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Nearly Invisible

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Spiny

Leaf Textures: Smooth

Leaf Scent:

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Red

Seasons: Year Round

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: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Black

Seasons: Year Round

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Invasive Potential: Yes

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: Less than 25

Edible Parts:

Pests: Mites, Nematodes, Caterpillars

Plant Propagations: Cutting, Layering

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