

## 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

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## 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

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Red

**Seasons:** Year Round

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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:** 0 - 1.5

**Fruit Colors:** Black

**Seasons:** Year Round

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Leaf Image

## Horticulture Management

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### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Moderate

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### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate, Low

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

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### 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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Bark Image



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