

Botanical Name:     Aeschynanthus radicans

Common Name:     Lipstick plant

Type of Plant:     dicot: houseplant     Family     Gesneriaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape     spawling, trailing plant with thick, waxy, hairy leaves and brightly colored tubular flowers; often grown in hanging baskets

Height     to 6 in.     Spread     to 3 ft.     Growth Rate     slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure     in/outdoors     protected areas outdoors, bright light indoors

Soil     prefers a well-drained potting mix

Hardiness     tender, prefers warm indoor conditions

Morphology:

Leaves     thick, waxy, pinnate leaves oppositely arranged, often hairy, usually ovate-lanceolate, to 1-1/2" long, 3/4" across

Flowers     brightly colored tubular flowers to 2" long arising from purplish calyx; most common color is red with yellow blotches

Fruit     2-valved capsule

Propagation:     easy from herbaceous cuttings any time of year

Usage:     prize hanging basket plant grown for flowers which appear over long season; often a collector's plant because of environmental requirements - looks best kept in greenhouse or well-lit, moist areas indoors

Landscape Care:

Watering     likes regular watering; do not allow to dry out

Fertilizing     balanced fertilizer at half strength during growing season

Pruning     pinch off dead blooms, pinch regularly to encourage bushiness

Pests/Diseases     mealybugs

Other

Origin:     Java, Malay Peninsula