

Botanical Name: Acalypha californica

Common Name: California copperleaf

Type of Plant: dicot: subshrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a small, erect to sprawling plant, with slender stems  
forming a loose rounded canopy if unpruned

Height 1' - 3' (5') Spread equal or more Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors thrives in full sun; tolerates partial shade inland

Soil prefers well-draining habitats; tolerates clay soils

Hardiness Zones 11-24: requires warm low-elevation sites

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, broadly ovate-rounded, with crenate  
to somewhat dentate margins; ½" - 1" long, somewhat hairy, coarse-textured

Flowers dull reddish-copper, tiny, in small, mostly terminal  
catkins; May-July, intermittent

Fruit a capsule: small, 3-seeded, enclosed in a leafy bract

Propagation: seed; softwood cuttings

Usage: an attractive low filler, border or hedge plant, used for  
the copper-red hue produced by the profusion of tiny flowers; easily sheared  
for usage in formal-style gardens; slope plantings

Landscape Care:

Watering periodic deep soakings; thrives when watered every 2-3  
weeks during summer; is very drought-tolerant after established

Fertilizing little is needed

Pruning to shape desired; head back after flowering to promote new  
fuller growth; can be sheared

Pests/Diseases relatively few

Special Conditions damaged by frost below 28 deg. F

Origin: San Diego Co Family: Euphorbiaceae