

Botanical Name: Acalypha pendula

Common Name: Firetail

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Euphorbiaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a loose, shrubby, small-scale plant with slender branches and a somewhat upright form; 1" long scarlet-red inflorescences point upright

Height 8" to 12" Spread to 24" Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors partial shade to shade preferred

Soil prefers well-drained, organic-based potting soil

Hardiness Tender; zones 23-24 outdoors (may survive frost outdoors)

Morphology:

Leaves simple pinnate leaves to 2" long, 1" across; ovate-elliptical with coarsely crenate margins; oppositely arranged

Flowers spikes of scarlet-red flowers held at the ends of branches, nearly all pointing upright; spikes reach 1-1/2" long, 1/4 across

Fruit tiny capsule; seeds heavily

Propagation: stem cuttings; easy

Usage: prized hanging basket plant for flowers and foliage; good in patios or atrium gardens; can also be effective in mass plantings as a bedding plant or low facer; long-lived and durable as a houseplant

Landscape Care:

Watering needs regular watering; not drought-tolerant

Fertilizing slow release fertilizer in spring

Pruning dead head; pinch to encourage bushy growth form

Pests/Diseases root rot where drainage is poor

Other may reseed heavily; reported to survive frost and resprout

Origin: Cuba, Carribean Islands