

Botanical Name: Asclepias curassavica

Common Name: Butterfly weed

Type of Plant: dicot: annual Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a very loosely-constructed plant, with slender stems
rising and spreading to form a fairly rangy, open, loosely rounded shape; stems
are conspicuously jointed at the nodes and have milky sap

Height 3' - 4' Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors prefers warm sunny locations - avoid heavy shade

Soil tolerates most, including clay

Hardiness fairly hardy (zones 14-24): plant more shrubby in mild-
climate areas

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, narrowly elliptic-lanceolate; medium
green, 3"-5" long; margins entire to slightly wavy

Flowers red with orange centers, small, borne on mostly terminal
umbels; April - September

Fruit a tiny capsule

Propagation: softwood cuttings

Usage: valued as a vigorous, loose filler for subtropical and
tropical gardens - produces its unusual and showy flowers for several months

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular; tolerates heavy irrigation - will survive
short periods of drought

Fertilizing little is required

Pruning head back strongly and thin after blooming season is done

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: tropical South America Family: Asclepiadaceae