

Botanical Name: Ruttya fruticosa

Common Name: Orange dragon, Orange bird

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Acanthaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Upright, sprawling woody perennial with medium textured foliage and thin, nearly vine-like branches; 2" orange flowers make a strong contrast

Height 4 to 6 ft. Spread to 6 ft. Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil prefers a well-amended soil with good drainage

Hardiness some frost (zones 15-17, 20-24)

Morphology:

Leaves ovate/oval to 2" long with winged petioles; medium green on upper surface, lower surface lighter; oppositely arranged with smooth surfaces

Flowers peculiar orange tubular flowers with swept-back petals and a very dark splotch on lower petal; flowers through warm season

Fruit tiny capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings

Usage: interesting plant used for brightly colored flowers and as a hummingbird attractor; flowers are also attractive to butterflies and other birds somewhat large and sprawling for small-scale locations

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers occasional deep watering; not particularly drought tolerant

Fertilizing slow-release in spring

Pruning head back long stems to keep compact

Pests/Diseases none significant

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Origin: Tropical Africa