

Botanical Name: Hamelia patens

Common Name: Firecracker shrub, Firebush. Scarlet bush

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Rubiaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, fast growing semi-woody shrub with a rounded growth form; species plant gets large and rangy while compact forms stay tight and dense

Height to 8 ft. Spread up to 6 ft. Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; flowering is reduced in shady locations

Soil good drainage is essential

Hardiness tender: Zones 13, 23, 24

Morphology:

Leaves medium to gray-green leaves elliptic to oval, 6" long

arranged in whorls of 3 to 7; veins and petioles tinged with reddish color

Flowers narrow tubular flowers arranged in terminal cymes; flowers

reddish and tipped with orange, about 3/4" long blooms spring to fall

Fruit small berries, dark red to black when ripe

Propagation: stem cuttings, seed

Usage: an excellent source of warm spring and summer color; heavy

blooming and attractive fruit make this a good wildlife attracter; useful in

tropical or Mediterranean theme landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering; needs ample watering when in

spring growth spurt; other times regular watering is sufficient

Fertilizing balanced fertilizer in spring

Pruning benefits from regular heading back to promote more flowers

Pests/Diseases none significant

Other requires protection from frost; exposed plants die back

Origin: Carribean region to northern South America