

Botanical Name: Melianthus major

Common Name: Honey bush

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Melianthaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, herbaceous plant with dramatic blue-green foliage
and dark red flower spikes; sprawls and leans over; can spread by runners

Height 6 to 10 ft. Spread 8 to 10 ft. Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil tolerates most any soil with decent drainage

Hardiness Hardy; Zones 8,9, 12-24

Morphology:

Leaves large, blue green pinnately compound leaves with up to 15
coarsely serrated leaflets; foliage smells vaguely like salty peanuts

Flowers dark red flowers in terminal clusters in late winter to
early spring; sweet secretions from flowers give the plant its name

Fruit 4-celled capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings, seed

Usage: a strongly architectural plant grown for its dramatic foliage
and upright form; can be used as an accent shrub or as a tall background plant;
flowers can be very attractive to hummingbirds

Landscape Care:

Watering takes average watering; can tolerate drought after
established and mixes well with California natives

Fertilizing balanced fertilizer in spring

Pruning hard pruning annual pruning gives a denser, neater look

Pests/Diseases occasional whitefly in shaded areas

Other all plant parts are poisonous

Origin: South Africa