

Botanical Name: Justicia spicigera

Common Name: Mexican honeysuckle, Orange plume flower

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Acanthaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape A loosely formed cushion-shaped plant with light green foliage and orange tubular flowers borne at the ends of its branches throughout the year

Height to 3' Spread to 4' Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil prefers well-drained soils

Hardiness Some frost (Zones 12-24)

Morphology:

Leaves narrowly elliptical leaves with felted surfaces; light green color with length of up to 3" and width of 1"

Flowers orange tubular flowers to 1" long and 1/4" across held in loose clusters at the ends of the branches; blooms most of the year

Fruit small capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings

Usage: excellent low facer plant for regular bloom and contrasting foliage; versatile enough to use in cottage gardens, Mediterranean gardens and even desert landscapes; thrives in containers

Landscape Care:

Watering likes regular watering

Fertilizing slow-release at planting time

Pruning pinch back regularly to keep bushy and dense

Pests/Diseases root rot where drainage is poor

Other good hummingbird attractor

Origin: Mexico and Central America