

Botanical Name: Nematanthus gregarius (Alloplectus nummularia)

Common Name: Goldfish plant

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Gesneriaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape arching, spreading multi-branched plant becoming dense and somewhat woody with age

Height to 12" Spread to 24" Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure in/outdoor prefers shaded, protected conditions outdoors

Soil prefers a rich, peat-based potting soil

Hardiness tender outdoors, needs bright light and humidity indoors

Morphology:

Leaves simple pinnate, broadly elliptical leaves to 1-1/4" long, dark glossy and leathery above, paler beneath, oppositely arranged

Flowers orange to orange-red, tubular flowers which puff open to a swollen looking "mouth" which gives it its name

Fruit small inconspicuous capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings; root easily

Usage: excellent hanging basket plant for protected patios or bright indoor spaces; provides long blooming season from spring through fall

Landscape Care:

Watering need regular watering, but can be allowed to become quite dry between waterings

Fertilizing balanced, slow release fertilizer, low nitrogen for bloom

Pruning head back occasionally to control size and shape

Pests/Diseases aphids, mealybugs

Other plants bloom best when somewhat potbound

Origin: Mexico through Central America