

Botanical Name: Cestrum elegans (Cestrum purpureum)

Common Name: Red cestrum

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape few to several erect, slender, arching stems -- forms a  
loose, open canopy, tends to become rank and top-heavy without regular pruning

Height 6-10' Spread 4-8' Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors prefers partial sun, tolerates full

Soil prefers well-draining, moist soils -- tolerates most

Hardiness some frost (zones 13,17, 19-24)

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, narrow-ovate, 3-5" long, 1-1 1/2"  
wide, short-petioled, slightly pubescent underside

Flowers red to burgundy tubular flowers in terminal clusters,  
individual blooms 3/4-1" long

Fruit fleshy, maroon-purple berry, 1/4", poisonous

Propagation: seed, softwood cuttings

Usage: tall filler, loose screen, background - best in warm  
sheltered area with damp soil -- tropical landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering regular to heavy watering preferred

Fertilizing 2-3 times a year

Pruning head back lightly and frequently for compactness

Pests/Diseases buffalo treehoppers (worst in spring)

Special Conditions good hummingbird attractor

Origin: Mexico, Central Amer. Family: Solanaceae