

Botanical Name: Caesalpinia pulcherrima

Common Name: Red bird of paradise, Dwarf poinciana

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Family Fabaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape rounded, dense deciduous tropical shrub which features fine-
texture blue-green foliage and striking red/orange flowers above leaves

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

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun

Soil prefers light, well-drained soils

Hardiness Some frost – Zones 12-16, 18-23

Morphology:

Leaves Bipinnately compound leaves, oppositely arranged, to 1 ft long;
blue-green color, leaflets to 3/4" long, elliptic – branches somewhat spiny

Flowers bright red or orange flowers in terminal clusters, cup-shaped with
long, red protruding stamens– blooms throughout the warm season

Fruit brown pod to 5" long, 1" wide

Propagation: seed

Usage: tropical screen material, can be used for a shapely accent shrub
if carefully pruned and maintained – often used in hot, dry conditions in more
rustic landscape themes – seeds heavily

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers deep, infrequent watering – do not allow soil to stay
soggy for long periods

Fertilizing slow-release at planting time

Pruning head back occasionally to induce bushiness and after frosts

Pests/Diseases root rot in poorly drained soils

Other seeds and pods can cause illness

Origin: West Indies