

Botanical Name: Cuphea micropetala

Common Name: Giant cigar plant

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Lythraceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape A rounded, sprawling perennial/sub-shrub with upright stems
terminating in clusters of yellow and red tubular flowers

Height to 4 ft. Spread to 4 ft. Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun to partial shade

Soil tolerates any soil with good drainage

Hardiness Some frost - zones 16-24

Morphology:

Leaves elliptical, dark green, to 5" long, oppositely arranged;
foliage has a slightly abrasive texture, reddish stems are somewhat sticky

Flowers tubular flowers reddish orange at base, yellow-green at the
ends; born in dense terminal spikes throughout the warm season

Fruit small papery capsule

Propagation: stem cuttings

Usage: potent hummingbird attractor, filler for open slopes and warm
areas; good in rustic landscapes where sprawling habit and rangy appearance are
not a problem; mixes with other Mediterranean plants

Landscape Care:

Watering takes average watering, tolerates some drought when
established

Fertilizing slow-release fertilizer in spring

Pruning head back in late fall to control size and keep dense

Pests/Diseases none significant

Other _____

Origin: Mexico