

Botanical Name: Erythrina crista-galli

Common Name: Cockspur Coral Tree

Type of Plant: dicot:tree/shrub Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape variable; plant mostly has shrubby growth with irregular branching to form a broadly rounded canopy

Height 15-30' (40') Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil a well-draining loam preferred; tolerates poorer

Hardiness some frost (zones 7-9, 12-17, 19-24); prefers warm coast

Morphology:

Leaves trifoliate, alternate, 8-14" long, leaflets are ovate, elliptical, 2-4" long; have spiny petioles and glandular stipules

Flowers loose orange-red spikes of compressed-tubular flowers: 10-15" long, very showy, at ends of branches; each flower 1-2" long

Fruit a pod: 6-15" long, constricted between seeds

Propagation: seed, semihardwood cuttings

Usage: a tropical-theme accent tree, used for its heavy flower display and irregular form; suitable for background screen/barrier plantings in large-scale landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; can tolerate drought after established at mild-climate coastal sites

Fertilizing as needed; little required if heavily watered

Pruning cut out dead ends of branches after spring bloom; thin

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: Brazil (tropical deciduous forest region) Family: Fabaceae