



Tropical Tempest Copper Plant

Acalypha wilkesiana 'Tropical Tempest'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: 10a

Other Names: Tiki Tropical Tempest, Copperleaf Plant

Group/Class: Tiki Series

Description:

This copper plant is anything but copper; lime green leaves with dark green and gold variegation on a bushy mounded plant; colors most intense in sunny areas; great for containers

Ornamental Features

Tropical Tempest Copper Plant has attractive dark green-variegated lime green foliage with hints of gold on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The serrated heart-shaped leaves are highly ornamental and remain lime green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Tropical Tempest Copper Plant is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Tropical Tempest Copper Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



*Tropical Tempest Copper Plant
foliage*
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Tropical Tempest Copper Plant will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Tropical Tempest Copper Plant makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.