Mexican Bird Of Paradise

Caesalpinia pulcherrima

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Barbados Pride, Peacock Flower, Poinciana

Description:

This tropical shrub or small tree produces spectacular upright racemes of luminous yellow, orange, and red blooms that are long lasting; graceful foliage creates a wonderful texture; perfect for patio containers, or near walkways

Planting & Growing

This plant is native to the tropics and prefers growing in moist environments with evenly warm conditions all year round. In our climate, it is usually grown as an outdoor annual in the garden or in a container. If you want it to survive the winter, it can be brought in to the house and provided with special care, and then returned to the garden the following season. In its preferred tropical habitat, as a shrub it can grow to be around 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. However, when grown as an annual or when overwintered indoors, it can be expected to perform quite differently, and its exact height and spread will depend on many factors; you may wish to consult with our experts as to how it might perform in your specific application and growing conditions.



Mexican Bird Of Paradise flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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This tropical plant should only be grown in full sunlight. 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 species is not originally from North America.

Mexican Bird Of Paradise makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.



Mexican Bird Of Paradise in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder