Cardinal's Guard

Pachystachys coccinea

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Justicia coccinea, Jacobinia coccinea

Description:

This perennial, evergreen shrub produces terminal spikes of scarlet red tubular flowers for most of they year in warm climates; grown as an annual in colder areas; an excellent choice for indoor containers, maintain some humidity in winter months

Features & Attributes

Cardinal's Guard features showy spikes of scarlet tubular flowers at the ends of the branches from early spring to late fall. Its attractive large textured oval leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

This is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen houseplant with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture is quite ornamental and should be used to full effect. This plant may benefit from an occasional pruning to look its best.



Cardinal's Guard flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cardinal's Guard flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

When grown indoors, Cardinal's Guard can be expected to grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years. This houseplant will do well in a location that gets either direct or indirect sunlight, although it will usually require a more brightly-lit environment than what artificial indoor lighting alone can provide. It prefers to grow in average to moist soil. The surface of the soil shouldn't be allowed to dry out completely, and so you should expect to water this plant once and possibly even twice each week. Be aware that your particular watering schedule may vary depending on its location in the room, the pot size, plant size and other conditions; if in doubt, ask one of our experts in the store for advice. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soil. Contact the store for specific recommendations on pre-mixed potting soil for this plant.

There are many factors that will affect the ultimate height, spread and overall performance of a plant when grown indoors; among them, the size of the pot it's growing in, the amount of light it receives, watering frequency, the pruning regimen and repotting schedule. Use the information described here as a guideline only; individual performance can and will vary. Please contact the store to speak with one of our experts if you are interested in further details concerning recommendations on pot size, watering, pruning, repotting, etc.