East Bay Nursery

Ilavea Cuphea

Cuphea Ilavea

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Description:

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with unusual tubular flowers lipped with upward facing red petals and purple eyes with dark red flutes; great for bedding, shrub borders, and containers in warm climates



Ilavea Cuphea flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Llavea Cuphea features showy red tubular flowers with purple throats and curiously fluted crimson tips along the branches from mid spring to mid fall. It has grayish green evergreen foliage. The fuzzy pointy leaves remain grayish green throughout the winter.



Ilavea Cuphea in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Llavea Cuphea 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 is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Llavea Cuphea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Llavea Cuphea will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Llavea Cuphea makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. 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.