Christmas Cheer Torchlily

Kniphofia uvaria 'Christmas Cheer'

Plant Height: 4 feet

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 32 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Red-hot Poker, Flame Flower, Tritoma

Description:

Amazing orange-red flower stalks rise from grassy, evergreen foliage, appearing in fall, winter, and early spring in warmer climates; a larger variety, creating a brilliant border or container planting; makes a great cutflower and attracts hummingbirds

Ornamental Features

Christmas Cheer Torchlily features bold spikes of coral-pink tubular flowers with buttery yellow overtones at the ends of the stems from mid fall to late winter. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its grassy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Christmas Cheer Torchlily is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Christmas Cheer Torchlily is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Christmas Cheer Torchlily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Christmas Cheer Torchlily in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Christmas Cheer Torchlily will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 32 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Christmas Cheer Torchlily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.