Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant

Cuphea ignea 'Starfire Pink'



Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Mexican Cigar Plant, Cigar Flower

Description:

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with unusual pinkish-red tubular flowers with violet throats and white tips; flowers year round in warmer climates; a great garden accent or container plant

Ornamental Features

Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant has hot pink tubular flowers with red overtones, violet throats and white tips along the branches from early spring to late winter, which are interesting on close inspection. It has bluish-green evergreen foliage. The pointy leaves remain bluish-green throughout the winter.



Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

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 bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant will grow to be about 3 feet 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 fast 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Starfire Pink Firecracker Plant 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.