Cubano™ Cristo False Heather

Cuphea hyssopifolia 'Cristo'

Height: 18 inches

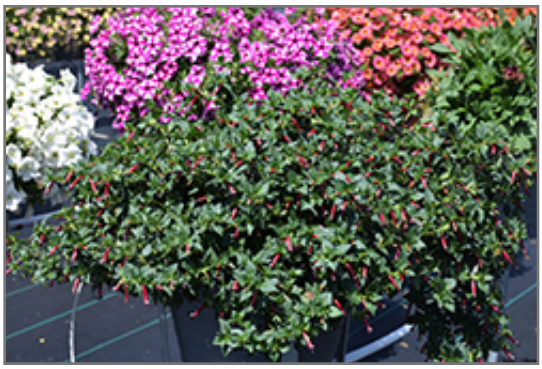
Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Mexican Heather

Group/Class: Cubano Series



Cubano Cristo False Heather in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with dainty red tubular flowers that open to a star shape; flowers year round in warmer climates; great for bedding, shrub borders, and containers



Cubano Cristo False Heather flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Cubano Cristo False Heather features dainty red tubular flowers along the branches from late spring to early fall. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The glossy pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Cubano Cristo False Heather 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 bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cubano Cristo False Heather is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Cubano Cristo False Heather will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. 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. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. 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.

Cubano Cristo False Heather makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. 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.