

# December 2023 Plant of the Month

## Firecracker Plant Coral Fountain

*Russelia equisetiformis*

Plant Form: Perennial shrub

Water Use: Low, moderate

Mature Size: 3-4 ft. tall x 4-6 ft. wide

Exposure: Full sun, part sun, filtered sun

Bloom Time: Spring (Mar – May),

Summer (June – Aug), Fall (Sept – Oct)

Native to: Mexico

Hardiness: Cold hardy to 25-30°F

Firecracker Plant turns heads with its showy, 1-inch-long red flowers on arching stems throughout all warmer months of the year. Hummingbirds and butterflies can't resist it. Also known as Coral Fountain, its fine-textured, nearly leafless stems appear to flow like a fountain carrying flowers from a central point to the tips of its weeping branches. This long-lived, dramatic plant has excellent heat and sun tolerance, as well as moderate drought-resistance once well-established. Dead-heading spent flower stems helps with continuous blooming. Although they thrive in full sun, they do best with morning sun and afternoon shade in our hottest months, and prefer protection from drying winds. A fast-growing, easy-care shrub, Firecracker Plant has only one drawback: it can freeze in our Zone 8b Cold Hardiness Zone if not protected during hard frosts. Place this frost-sensitive plant in warm, sheltered areas, or containers that can be moved. Looks great spilling from containers, window boxes, raised beds, over walls, on a trellis, or as an informal groundcover.



Water-Conserve Today for Tomorrow

Alliance for Water  
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening,  
contact your local water provider or go to

[www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/](http://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/)

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