Red Ruellia
_Ruellia elegans ‘Ragin’ Cajun’_

The red ruellia blooms attract butterflies and hummingbirds and last from May until frost. The plant tolerates a light frost, but dies back at about 28 degrees. It forms a 12 inch high by 24 inch in diameter mound of soft green, semi-fuzzy foliage. This is NOT _Ruellia simplex_, common name Mexican petunia, which is highly invasive and should not be used. The plant is described as an annual, but because it reseeds and spreads rapidly it is sometimes thought of as a perennial.

**Type:** annual; reseeds

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8b through 11a

**Uses:** mass planting; border; cut flowers

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 8 to 24 inches  
**Spread:** 24 to 36 inches

**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** high organic matter loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Invasive potential:** may self-seed each year

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

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