

Shrimp Plant

Justicia brandegeana

Shrimp plant is an attractive tropical perennial and a must-have for a hummingbird garden. This easy-to-grow plant is easily recognized by the colorful, drooping, shrimp-like bracts it produces but it's the white flowers inside the bracts that attract both hummingbirds and butterflies. It will be killed back by frost but usually returns in the spring. Shrimp plant can be planted in full sun or part shade, and will grow best in rich organic soil. The plant commonly called golden shrimp plant is a different but related species. New plants may look somewhat twiggy, but with light pruning and a little care will quickly spread to form an attractive clump.

Type: deciduous perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 8b through 11

Uses: border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; accent

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 2 to 3 feet **Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 2 to 3 feet

Light requirement: full sun to part shade

Soil tolerances: acid to slightly alkaline; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: none

Invasive potential: low

Pest and disease resistance: none serious

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Photo: UF/ IFAS