

Firebush

Hamelia patens

This charming Florida native will delight everyone with beautiful orange-red flowers throughout most of the year. Hummingbirds and butterflies enjoy the nectar in the flowers. Though native, it is quite tender and can be killed to the ground during a freeze. Regrowth from the roots is rapid and rampant and it has proven to be root hardy through zone 9. It functions very well as an annual in more northerly zones. It grows best when well supplied with moisture and prefers a full sun to partial shade location in the landscape. The small, black, glossy fruits are rounded and can be eaten. There is a continuous crop of these seedy fruits and birds are quite fond of them. The sap has been used to treat skin rashes.

Type: soft-stemmed shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 9 through 11

Uses: specimen; accent; screen; border; mass planting; attracts butterflies; attracts hummingbirds

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 8 to 12 feet **Spread:** 8 to 12 feet

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Light requirement: shade to part sun

Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

**MORE
INFORMATION**

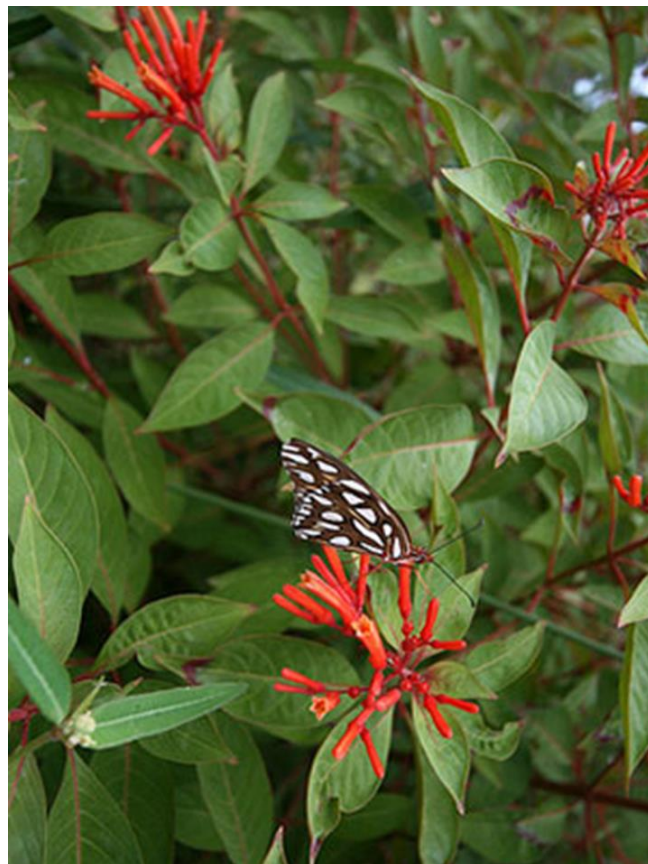


Photo: UF/IFAS