

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Uruguayan Firecracker Plant

Dicliptera suberecta

DESCRIPTION: This South American native is just being tested here and we hope to find it suitable to our climate. In containers, we've found it to be an ultimate hummingbird magnet. Tubular flowers are brilliant red. Its bloom season is from late spring through the fall. It can grow to 2' tall before laying over and forming mounds to 3' across. It has velvety, bluish-grey leaves and stems. Dormant in winter but returns with added vigor! This ornamental delights hummingbirds.

RECOMMENDED USE: Good for a shade-garden accent, patio container or hanging pot.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: We've tested it outdoors in containers to 26°F with no problem. To preserve the crown it should have protective winter mulch.



Sun tolerance: Can take full sun, but would do better in light shade (at least for the afternoon).



Watering and feeding: Moderate to high in containers. Fertilize monthly when it is blooming.



Soil requirements: Does better with loose rich soil with good drainage.



Pruning: Can be sheared back to 6 inches any time of the year.