



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Scarlet Bee Blossom

Oenothera suffrutescens (Gaura coccinea)

DESCRIPTION: Airy and delicate in appearance, Scarlet Bee Blossom's growth habit is fairly compact, with thin branches that form a clump to 1½ feet tall and wide. In the spring it sends up arching sprays of small orchid-like blooms, and continues to flower throughout the summer. The rose-red flowers stay open in the daytime. Butterflies are attracted to the blossoms. This native from northern Mexico to the Canadian border. In Arizona, it is common at mid-elevations in the southeastern part of the state and above the Mogillon Rim. If moisture is available, it can spread by suckering. Scarlet Bee Blossom is in the evening primrose family, and is susceptible to flea beetles.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a colorful accent in flower beds or in a patio container. It is ideal for planting under desert trees or in a rock garden.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very hardy; to at least 0°F.



Sun tolerance: Scarlet Bee Blossom can take full sun but appreciates some afternoon protection in the hottest zones.



Watering and feeding: Prefers moderate irrigation. Fertilization is not necessary, except in containers.



Soil requirements: Scarlet Bee Blossom thrives in well-drained soil to sandy-clay.



Pruning: Can be cut back to 3" any time. It can spread by suckering.