



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Scarlet Sage or Mirto

Salvia coccinea

DESCRIPTION: Scarlet Sage is a perennial subshrub, growing at a moderate rate to one or two feet tall, and as wide. It is evergreen, but may lose foliage and stems after a freeze. Flowers occur throughout the growing season and are typically dark red and tubular, flaring open at the end. Included is the variety “Bicolor”, known as Peach Sage or “Peaches and Cream”. Flowers on this variety have white, pink, and red petals. Scarlet Sage is native to tropical America. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to the flowers.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use for color and to attract wildlife.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to 20° F, although the variety bicolor is only hardy to 30° F.



Sun tolerance: Likes full sun to moderate shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use. 2-3 times a week when first planted. Fertilize 2-3 times a year.



Soil requirements: Most soils will do.



Pruning: Cut to near the ground in the winter.