

Calliandra haematocephala

Red Powder Puff - elementalnursery.com

Culture:

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 9-11 where it is best grown in moist, fertile soils in full sun. Likes high humidity. Tolerates wide range of soils including somewhat poor ones. Keep soils consistently moist. For the St. Louis area, grow in containers that should be overwintered indoors in a bright cool sun room or greenhouse.

Noteworthy Characteristics:

Native to Bolivia, red powder puff is an evergreen shrub or small tree. It was formerly included in the legume or pea family, but has recently been shifted into the mimosa family. It typically grows 10-15' tall in its native habitat and is a very popular flowering shrub in central and southern Florida where it will survive year-round in the ground. Bipinnately compound leaves (5-10 pairs of leaflets per pinna) open copper-pink but mature to dark green. Raspberry-like flower buds open to hemispherical red powder puff flower heads (to 3" across) consisting of masses of scarlet stamens. Blooms primarily in fall and winter, but sporadic additional bloom may occur throughout the rest of the year. Variations in flower color exist, with some pink and white forms being available. Calliandra comes from the Greek words kallos meaning beauty and andros meaning stamen.

Problems: [Click for detailed list of pests and problems.](#)

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for caterpillars, spider mites and aphids.

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Common Name: Red powder puff

Zone: 9 to 11

Plant Type: Broadleaf evergreen

Family: Fabaceae

Missouri Native: No

Native Range: South America

Height: 3 to 6 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: Seasonal bloomer

Bloom Color: Red

Sun: Full sun (only)

Water: Medium moisture

Maintenance: