

Firecracker/Cigar Plant



Cuphea ignea

- **Use:** This easy care tropical produces masses of orange tubular flowers with white tipped petals and stamens that make each bloom look a little like a lit cigar. Work well in almost any type of container. Or, you use them in mass plantings for spectacular effect. Hummingbirds love this plant and will seek it out no matter where you plant it.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers full sun. Provide well-drained soil with a neutral pH and slow release fertilizer, and enjoy flower-filled containers all summer.
- **Growth:** Grows to 1-2' tall and wide in one season. Plants can become leggy as the growing season progresses, in which case stem tips may be pinched as needed to maintain good plant form.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 9-10 Annual; Very heat tolerant! Mulch around plant in the winter. May plant in the ground in spring and they will come following year back in a protected area with a good mulch layer before winter. If grown in containers, plants may be overwintered indoors in bright, sunny locations with temperatures in the 60s and reduced watering.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Small leaves.
- **Flower:** Small, tubular, bright red flowers (to 1.25" long) bloom singly in the leaf axils from late spring to frost along stems crowded with pointed, lance-shaped to ovate, dark green leaves (to 1 1/2" long). Each flower consists of a narrow, tubular, red calyx (no corolla) tipped with a thin white rim and two tiny purple-black petals, all of which is purportedly suggestive of a lit cigar (cigarette or firecracker).



Super tough and drought tolerant once established. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies.

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