

Flame Vine, *Flaming Trumpet*

GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: fast growing
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, layer, cuttings
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: high
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2000 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

SHAPE

Type	: climbers
Height	: 12 m-24 m
Spread	: 5 m-10 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: bright orange
Size	: 5 cm - 8 cm
Period	: May - July

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: pod
Fruit size	: 30 cm
Toxicity	: inedible

In appropriate locations, the Flame Vine may present its vigorous growth with lush, evergreen leaves. In its native country, Brazil, it climbs fast by twining or tendrils to a height of 24 metres under perfect conditions, but is limited to about 14 metres in cultivation. The tendril is a modified leaflet at the tip of a compound leaf which twines around anthropogenic structures such as a fence, or a natural support such as trees. Such overgrowing may result in invasions that kill shrubs or small trees in the vicinity. In its homeland tropical South America, where no frosts occur, dormancy may be induced during a brief period of dryness. Twigs take some frost, but protected sites are recommended initially, especially in Arriyadh. Plants recover readily after hard pruning, which is best done after flowering. Most striking is its spectacular flowers that measure up to 8 cm across. Abundant clusters of bright-golden or orange flowers show up mainly in early summer, and sporadically throughout the year. They are tubular, curved and waxy. They are followed by pods of 30 cm in length. Flame Vines do best in full sun with moderate to abundant watering, and respond well to fertiliser. They can be trained along a pergola, but should be allowed to drape over structures, since the best effect can be achieved when the flowers hang down. They are most often multiplied by layering and cuttings. They can also be propagated at a small scale by separating suckers.

