

Ixora, *Flame of the Woods*

GENERAL

Origin	: tropical
Vigour	: slow-growing
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

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

SHAPE

Type	: shrub
Height	: 0.7 m-1.5 m
Spread	: 0.7 m-1.5 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: bright orange
Size	: 5 cm - 12 cm
Period	: July - August

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: berry
Fruit size	: 1 cm

This round shrub originates from the tropical and subtropical forests from Malaya to China. It grows moderately fast to about 1.5 metres in height. The shiny, dark-green foliage is attractive and takes Arriyadh's climate relatively well in a protected garden environment. The oval leaves may reach 15 cm in length. The Flame of the Woods bears spherical cymes of 12 cm diameter, consisting of scarlet florets. They seem to glow when the shrub is located beneath trees that cast light shade. Types with red, orange and yellow flowers may also be found in cultivation. The peak of floral display is in summer, but inflorescences appear all year round. Flowers are followed by hard berries. Some cultivars remain compact dwarf types, and are therefore ideal plants for containers. The plant tolerates some salinity and brief periods of drought, but performs best in nutritious, well-drained soil which is moist and acidic. Alkaline soil results in iron deficiency, as indicated by yellow leaves. Fertilisers should be applied frequently, especially during the flowering period. It also responds well to compost and manure. Light requirements range from partial shade to full sun. The shrub can be grown as a flowering hedge and takes pruning at any time of the year. It looks best grouped in mixed borders with some shade in the afternoon. Adverse conditions ease infestations by scale insects and nematodes. It may be propagated in summer by softwood cuttings. The plants require initial protection against transpiration.

