Jatropha

Jatropha integerrima

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Spicy Jatropha

Description:

A dense evergreen shrub that may become tree-like with age; stunning clusters of red flowers are long blooming from spring to fall, over dark green foliage; a great hedge or screening plant in frost free areas; great in containers as well; seeds are toxic



Jatropha flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Jatropha features showy clusters of red star-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from late spring to mid fall. It has dark green evergreen foliage. The narrow pinnately compound leaves remain dark green throughout the winter.



Jatropha bark
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Jatropha is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Jatropha is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

2974 Johnston St.,
Lafayette, LA 70503
(337) 264-1418
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Planting & Growing

Jatropha will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Jatropha makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.



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