Torchlily

Kniphofia uvaria



Torchlily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 22 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Red-hot Poker, Flame Flower, Tritoma

Description:

Hummingbirds love the beautiful yellow and red colored bottlebrush type flowers; the blooms rise from grassy, evergreen foliage in midsummer to create an unusual yet brilliant border or container planting; makes a great cutflower

Ornamental Features

Torchlily features bold spikes of red tubular flowers with yellow overtones and green throats at the ends of the stems from mid summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its grassy leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Torchlily is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Torchlily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Torchlily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Torchlily will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 22 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Torchlily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.