

**Botanical Name:** *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*

**Common Name:** Red Bird of Paradise



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Habitat:** Roadsides, dry washes

**Native Distribution:** West Indies, Mexico

**Elevation:** Up to 2,000 ft

**Hardiness:** 30°F

**Type:** Semi-evergreen

**Size:** 8' tall x 8' wide

**Shape:** Open, vase-shaped

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Flowers:** Beautiful panicle of red-orange blooms on branch terminals and long red stamens

**Bloom Season:** Spring to fall

**Fruit:** 2-1/2" flat brown pod that twists when drying and pops at maturity to release seeds

**Foliage:** Bi-pinnately compound, medium-green fern-like leaflets

**Exposure:** Full to part sun

**Shade:** Filtered

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**In the Landscape:** Works well in Phoenix as mass border or as a background plant. Also see a lot of these in medians. Excellent for tropical or oasis areas. Moderate litter and maintenance. Slightly prickly stems.

**Wildlife:** Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

**Other Stuff:**

- Often mistakenly called the Mexican Bird of Paradise.
- Look for cultivar 'Phoenix' with yellow flowers.
- Now naturalized throughout the Sonoran Desert and Texas.
- Will shed its leaves below freezing and can be trimmed down to the ground (roots are hardy to about 15°F).
- Water every week during the bloom season to prolong blooming.
- Will get leggy on the north sides of homes in Phoenix, and will likely not bloom.