

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.