Pyrostegia venusta Flame Vine

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Introduction
Also known as Pyrostegia ignea, flame vine grows rapidly. Climbing by tendrils, this vigorous evergreen vine makes a brilliant fall and winter display of reddish-orange, 3-inch-long tubular flowers borne in clusters of 15 to 20 (Fig. 1). Covering everything that can offer a good support, flame vine should be planted with caution because it has been known to cover, then strangle, trees with its rampant growth. It has escaped cultivation in much of central Florida and is often seen in flower during the winter and spring, growing in trees. It can be found occasionally in the southern parts of hardiness zone 8b. Heavy or frequent pruning is needed to restrain it to trellises or arbors, but the brilliant flower display makes this extra work worth the effort. It is ideal for covering fences but will often produce most of the flowers and foliage at the top of the fence. Regularly heading back several of the stems can help develop some of the flowers and foliage on the lower and middle portions of the fence.

General Information
Scientific name: Pyrostegia venusta
Pronunciation: pye-roe-STEEG-ee-uh ven-NUSS-tuh
Common name(s): flame vine
Family: Bignoniaceae
Plant type: vine
USDA hardiness zones: 9 through 11 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 9: year round
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: espalier
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description
Height: depends upon supporting structure
Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Figure 1. Flame vine

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
Plant habit: spreading  
Plant density: dense  
Growth rate: fast  
Texture: medium

**Foliage**
Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite  
Leaf type: palmately compound  
Leaf margin: entire  
Leaf shape: ovate  
Leaf venation: pinnate  
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen  
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: no fall color change  
Fall characteristic: not showy

![Foliage of flame vine](image)

**Flower**
Flower color: orange  
Flower characteristic: winter flowering; fall flowering

**Fruit**
Fruit shape: elongated  
Fruit length: 6 to 12 inches  
Fruit cover: dry or hard  
Fruit color: unknown  
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**
Trunk/bark/branches: usually with one stem/trunk  
Current year stem/twig color: brown  
Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

**Culture**
Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun  
Soil tolerances: alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam  
Drought tolerance: high  
Soil salt tolerances: poor  
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

**Other**
Roots: not applicable  
Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers  
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
Invasive potential: potentially invasive  
Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

**Use and Management**
Growing in full sun to partial shade, flame vine will tolerate a wide range of soils. Flame vine sometimes flowers lightly during the summer.

Propagation is by cuttings or layering.

**Pests and Diseases**
Scales, caterpillars, and mites can be a problem for flame vine.