

*Ixora coccinea*¹

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Introduction

Four to six-inch globular clusters of bright red, orange, yellow, pink, or white tube-shaped flowers bloom continuously under ideal conditions in full sun (Fig. 1). The two to three inch-long leaves are bronzy when young, later turning to a glistening dark green. The much-branched, compact habit of *Ixora* makes it ideal for hedges, borders, screens, or as a specimen planting, and it may be pruned at any time. Shearing to maintain a hedge will reduce the flower display.

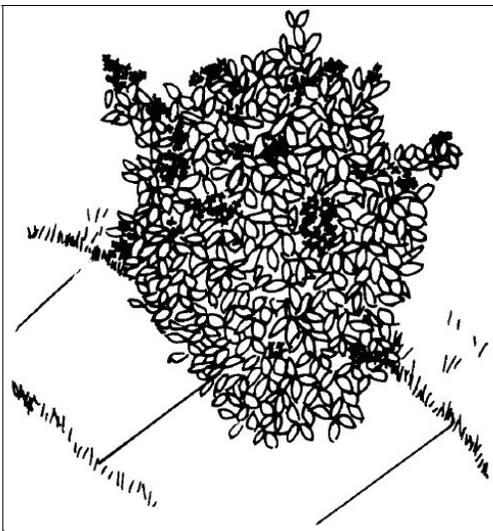


Figure 1. *Ixora*.

General Information

Scientific name: *Ixora coccinea*

Pronunciation: ick-SOR-uh kock-SIN-ee-uh

Common name(s): *Ixora*

Family: Rubiaceae

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: screen; border; container or above-ground planter; hanging basket; superior hedge; accent; attracts hummingbirds; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size)

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 10 to 15 feet

Spread: 4 to 10 feet

Plant habit: upright; oval

1. This document is FPS 291, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date October 1999. Reviewed March 2015. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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Plant density: dense
Growth rate: slow
Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: whorled
Leaf type: simple
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

Flower

Flower color: red; yellow; pink; white; orange
Flower characteristic: year-round flowering



Figure 3. Flower of Ixora

Fruit

Fruit shape: round
Fruit length: less than .5 inch
Fruit cover: fleshy
Fruit color: purple
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multitrunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: reddish
Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem
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: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: very sensitiveto one or more pests or diseases which can affect plants health or aesthetics

Use and Management

Ixora thrives in full sun in moist but well-drained acid soil but can tolerate some shade. Foliage turns yellow in alkaline soil such as next to sidewalks and foundations, where it is often planted. A continued micronutrient fertility program is neededto maintain green leaf color in alkaline soil. The cultivar 'Fraseri' has brilliant reddish-salmon flowers. 'Crimson King' has bright red flowers. Dwarf cultivars are available and are well suited for container planting.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Problems include nematodes, aphids, bagworms and scale. Chlorosis in alkaline soil makes this a high maintenance plant in many coastal landscapes. Treatment with an appropriate micronutrient fertilizer can temporarily prevent or correct chlorosis. Chelates with iron and/or manganese correct and help prevent chlorosis.

Pest and Diseases

Mushroom root rot can be a problem for Ixora.