

# *Pyrostegia venusta* Flame Vine<sup>1</sup>

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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. 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, flame flower, flamingo trumpet

**Family:** *Bignoniaceae*

**Plant type:** vine



Figure 1. Full Form - *Pyrostegia venusta*: Flame Vine  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Leaf - *Pyrostegia venusta*: Flame Vine  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

1. This document is FPS496, one of a series of the Department of Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date October 1999. Revised October 2023. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this publication.
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Figure 3. Flower - *Pyrostegia venusta*: Flame Vine  
Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9 through 11 (Figure 4)

**Planting month for zone 9:** year-round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year-round

**Origin:** native to South America

**Invasive potential:** not considered a problem species at this time and may be recommended by UF/IFAS faculty (reassess in 10 years)

**Uses:** espalier

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant



Figure 4. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**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

## 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

**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.