

Scientific Name:

Ixora coccinea

Common Name:

- Jungle Geranium
- Flame of the Woods
- West Indian Jasmine

Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A tropical shrub that can grow up to 1-2 meters tall, with a bushy and dense growth habit. It has a compact form, making it suitable for hedges and ornamental borders.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are simple, dark green, and glossy, measuring about 5-10 cm long. They are lanceolate to elliptical in shape, arranged oppositely along the stems.
- **Flowers:** The plant is known for its clusters of small, tubular flowers that bloom in dense heads. The flowers are typically bright red or orange, but can also be found in shades of yellow and pink. They are fragrant and attract butterflies and other pollinators.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a small, oval-shaped drupe that is typically red or black when ripe, containing one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is smooth and brownish-gray, becoming slightly rough with age.

Cultural Importance:

- *Ixora coccinea* holds significant cultural value in many tropical regions, often used in traditional landscaping and as a decorative garden plant. It is frequently planted in residential gardens, parks, and public spaces for its vibrant flowers.
- In some cultures, the plant is associated with good luck and prosperity and is used in various traditional ceremonies and rituals.

Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
 - The primary use of *Ixora coccinea* is as an ornamental shrub in gardens and landscapes. It is often used in hedges, borders, and as a foundation planting due to its vibrant flower clusters and dense foliage.
- **Medicinal:**
 - Some traditional medicine practices utilize parts of the plant for various health benefits, although scientific studies on its efficacy are limited. In some cultures, the leaves are used to treat ailments such as fever and inflammation.

- **Culinary:**
 - In certain regions, the flowers are used in salads and other dishes for their decorative appeal, although they are not commonly used as a food source.
- **Ecological:**
 - The flowers attract pollinators such as butterflies and hummingbirds, playing a role in local ecosystems.

Picture Description:

- **Whole Plant:** A compact shrub with dense, bushy foliage and vibrant clusters of tubular flowers, typically bright red or orange.
- **Leaves:** Simple, dark green, and glossy leaves that are lanceolate to elliptical in shape, arranged oppositely on the stems.
- **Flower:** Clusters of small, tubular flowers in bright red or orange, with a fragrant scent that attracts pollinators.
- **Fruit:** Small, oval-shaped drupes that turn red or black when ripe, containing one or two seeds.
- **Bark:** Smooth and brownish-gray, becoming slightly rougher with age.

