Baja Fairy Duster

Calliandra californica



Baja Fairy Duster flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: Red Fairy Duster, Flame Bush

Description:

This is an upright, fountain-like shrub producing fern-like, sea green foliage that folds up at night; scarlet-red, fan shaped powderpuff blooms appear from spring to fall, with sporadic blooming year-round; heat and drought tolerant once established

Ornamental Features

Baja Fairy Duster features showy scarlet pincushion flowers along the branches from mid spring to mid fall. It has attractive dark green foliage with hints of powder blue which emerges light green in spring. The tiny oval bipinnately compound leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The smooth gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Baja Fairy Duster is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Baja Fairy Duster is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



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Planting & Growing

Baja Fairy Duster will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Baja Fairy Duster makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.