Erythrina herbacea

CARE GUIDE

Coral Bean is a tropical shrub or small tree showcasing showy flowers and bright seeds. The red, tubular shaped flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies from spring into summer while the seed pods provide a striking display in the fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>full sun, partial shade</td>
<td>minimal watering once established</td>
<td>salt and drought tolerant, native to Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida</td>
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This *Erythrina* species is salt tolerant and a great choice for coastal landscapes. While very showy spring through fall, Coral Bean has a sparse appearance during the winter months. The thorny shrub grows 6-12 ft. tall and 3-6 ft. wide and dies back each year when planted in regions that experience freezes.

In North America, indigenous peoples used the roots of Coral Bean to increase perspiration. In Hawaii, *Erythrina sandwicensis*’s (Williwilli) lightweight wood was used to make surfboards and the seeds were collected to use in lei making. There are around 130 species of *Erythrina*.

01. The seeds, while beautiful, are toxic so be sure to keep away from children and pets.

02. Little maintenance is required but does well when regularly pruned. Cut back dead branches and twigs after freezes.

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ntbg.org/gardening

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