



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Scarlet Monkeyflower *Erythranthe cardinalis*

**DESCRIPTION:** It is native along streamsides and seepages from Oregon and Utah, south into Mexico. In late spring and early summer it produces unusual orange-red flowers that some say resemble a monkey face. Hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers and affect pollination. This herbaceous perennial grows to about 2 feet tall by 2 to 3 feet wide, with large green leaves. The plant spreads by rhizomes and in wet areas where it thrives, it forms good size colonies. In a drier location, it does not spread as much. It looks great in combination with Golden columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*) which likes the same microhabitats.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Monkey Flower is ideal for shady, damp garden locations. It also makes a good plant for pond and stream boundaries and water gardens. It is adapted to both low and high deserts, as long as it receives afternoon shade and ample irrigation.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Around 10<sup>0</sup>F



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun if kept in water. Better in light to full shade.



**Growing conditions:** Plant in a moist garden situation or on margins of stream or pond or in a water garden situation with the plant's crown above the water surface (see the Aquatic Plants information page; microhabitats #1 and #2). Prefers rich, loose soil. Fertilization can be twice yearly unless grown in or next to water, as it will encourage algae growth.



**Pruning:** Can be cut to near the ground if frozen or too leggy. Scarlet Monkey Flower can become quite aggressive in stream habitats.