



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Red Bird-of-Paradise

Poinciana (Caesalpinia) pulcherrima

DESCRIPTION: Most Tucsonans are familiar with the bright orange and red flowers of our Red Bird-of-Paradise. Phoenix Bird™ is a recent introduction with all golden-yellow flowers. Otherwise, the plant looks the same as the red one. Flowering season is from April or early May until November. It is deciduous and can reach 6' tall or more very quickly. Red Bird-of-paradise is widely cultivated and naturalized in the tropics worldwide. Its original range is unknown. Many butterfly species utilize this plant as a nectar source.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, for flowers, or for enhancing a desert landscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to the lower 20°F's.



Sun tolerance: Does best in full sun.



Watering and feeding: Low to moderate water use. Flowers best with deep waterings every 5 days or so in the warm season. Feeding is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Any soil that drains will do.



Pruning: Prune back to <1' during the late winter to give it more vigor, better blooming, and a uniform shape.