



Moorea Copper Plant
Acalypha wilkesiana 'Moorea'

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: 10a

Other Names: Wilkes' Acalypha, Copperleaf, Firedragon

Description:

Widely grown as an annual in colder areas, this variety will grow up to 4 feet in one season; grows larger in frost free areas; large, palmate leaves in shades of copper, olive green and orange are impressive in the garden, or containers

Ornamental Features

Moorea Copper Plant has attractive burgundy-variegated olive green foliage with hints of orange which emerges coppery-bronze in spring on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The large serrated round palmate leaves are highly ornamental and remain olive green throughout the winter. It features dainty pink catkins rising above the foliage in mid summer.

Landscape Attributes

Moorea Copper Plant is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease



Moorea Copper Plant
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Moorea Copper Plant foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Moorea Copper Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Moorea Copper Plant 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 fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Moorea Copper Plant makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.