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SPECIES

Caesalpinia pulcherrima

COMMON NAME

Pride of Barbados, Peacock Flower

ORIGIN

West Indies & Tropical America

DESIGN USE

Small flowering accent and colourful informal barrier hedge



HEIGHT

2–5m

SPREAD

3–4m

HABIT

Fast-growing shrub; is also somewhat short-lived, but can be quickly replaced. It tends to be leggy at the base.



FORM

Informal, vase-shaped, multi-stemmed woody shrub with sharp thorns.

FLOWERS

Borne in racemes up to 20 cm long, each flower with five yellow, orange or red petals.

FLOWERING PERIOD

Year-round



FRUIT

The fruit is a pod 6–12 cm long

VARIATIONS

“Scarlet” (vivid vermillion red flowers with prominent yellow markings on younger flower)

“Crimson” (softer deep pinkish red flower with similar yellow markings)

“Gold” (deep golden yellow with subtle paler markings)

“Peach” (soft pastel shades, seldom seen)

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

It can be grown as an annual in colder climates. Even under frost free conditions, peacock flower may lose its leaves when temperatures drop into the 40's.



HORTICULTURE

Prefers full sun in any moist and well-drained soil. Regular trimming of old flowerheads and seedpods, and occasional hard rejuvenation pruning is required.

REFERENCES

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caesalpinia_pulcherrima

http://www.floridata.com/ref/C/caes_pul.cfm