

CORAL HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera sempervirens



Characteristic

- Type: Vine
- Zone: 4 to 9
- Height: 8.00 to 15.00 feet
- Spread: 3.00 to 6.00 feet
- Bloom Color: Scarlet/orange with yellow inside
- Bloom Time: May to June
- Flower: Showy
- Sun: Full sun
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Attracts: Birds, Hummingbirds, Butterflies
- Texas Native

Culture

This Texas native is a high-climbing, twining vine, 3-20 ft. long, with smooth, glossy, paired, semi-evergreen leaves and 2-4 flowered clusters of red, tubular blooms followed by bright-red berries. Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Will grow in some shade, but best flowering is in full sun. Best in humusy, organically rich soils with good drainage. This twining vine that needs a support structure upon which to grow unless allowed to sprawl as a ground cover. Prune as needed immediately after flowering. It will retain some foliage (semi-evergreen) in warm winter climates. (USDA Zone 8 and above).

Noteworthy Characteristics

Lonicera sempervirens, commonly called trumpet honeysuckle, is a vigorous, deciduous, twining vine which typically grows 10-15' (less frequently to 20') and is one of the showiest of the vining honeysuckles. It is primarily native to the southeastern U.S., but has escaped from gardens and naturalized in many other areas of the eastern U.S. Large, non-fragrant, narrow, trumpet-shaped flowers are scarlet to orangish red on the outside and yellowish inside. Flowers appear in late spring at stem ends in whorled clusters. They are attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Inedible red berries form in late summer to early fall and can be ornamentally attractive. The small red berries are attractive to birds. Oval, bluish-green leaves are glaucous beneath. This vine is evergreen in the warm winter climates of the deep South. Genus name honors Adam Lonitzer (1528-1586), German botanist, the author of an herbal (*Kreuterbuch*) many times reprinted between 1557 and 1783. Specific epithet means evergreen.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Powdery mildew and leaf spots may occur, particularly in hot and humid summer climates. Watch for aphids.

Garden Uses

Excellent vine for trellises, arbors and fences. Also can be effective as an unsupported sprawling ground cover.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder and Native American Seed