SHRIMP PLANT
Justicia brandegeeana






Characteristics

- Type: Shrub
- Native Range: Mexico
- Zone: 9 to 11
- Height: 1.00 to 3.00 feet
- Spread: 1.00 to 3.00 feet
- Bloom Time: Seasonal bloomer
- Bloom Color: White with red to pink-bronze bracts
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Flower: Showy
- Leaf: Evergreen

Culture

Winter hardy to USDA Zones 9-11. Roots may survive in Zone 8. Grow in moist, humusy, well-drained soils full sun to part shade. Colorful flower bracts tend to bleach out in full sun, so these plants are generally best grown in part shade, i.e., with some protection from hot afternoon sun. Grow in pots or containers in cooler areas. Plant stems can be pruned back to shape and promote bushiness. Containers may be overwintered as houseplants in a warm sun room, or watering can be severely reduced to force plants into dormancy for winter storage in a dark, cool, dry location.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Justicia brandegeeana, commonly called shrimp plant, is native to Mexico. It is a sprawling, suckering, tropical evergreen shrub that grows to 5’ tall in its native habitat. It can be pruned shorter and will naturally grow much shorter in containers. Features drooping arching terminal spikes (to 3-6” long) of white flowers with overlapping red to pink-bronze bracts. Each flower spike somewhat resembles a large shrimp. Blooms in summer. Synonymous with *Beloperone guttata*. Genus name honors James Justice, 18th Century Scottish horticulturist (1698-1763). Specific epithet honors American civil engineer Townsend Stith Brandegee (1843-1925) who studied plants of California and Mexico.

Problems

Leaves may drop if soil is either too wet or too dry. Susceptible to leaf spot. Watch for whiteflies and spider mites, particularly when grown indoors.

Garden Uses

Outdoors. Containers. Houseplant.

Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder