



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Ixora coccinea*¹

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Introduction

Four to six-inch globular clusters of bright red, orange, yellow, pink, or white tube-shaped flowers bloom continuously under ideal conditions in full sun (Fig. 1). The two to three-inch-long leaves are bronzy when young, later turning to a glistening dark green. The much-branched, compact habit of *Ixora* makes it ideal for hedges, borders, screens or as a specimen planting, and it may be pruned at any time. Shearing to maintain a hedge will reduce the flower display.

General Information

Scientific name: *Ixora coccinea*

Pronunciation: ick-SOR-uh kock-SIN-ee-uh

Common name(s): *Ixora*

Family: *Rubiaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: screen; border; container or above-ground planter; hanging basket; superior hedge; accent; attracts hummingbirds; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size)

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 10 to 15 feet

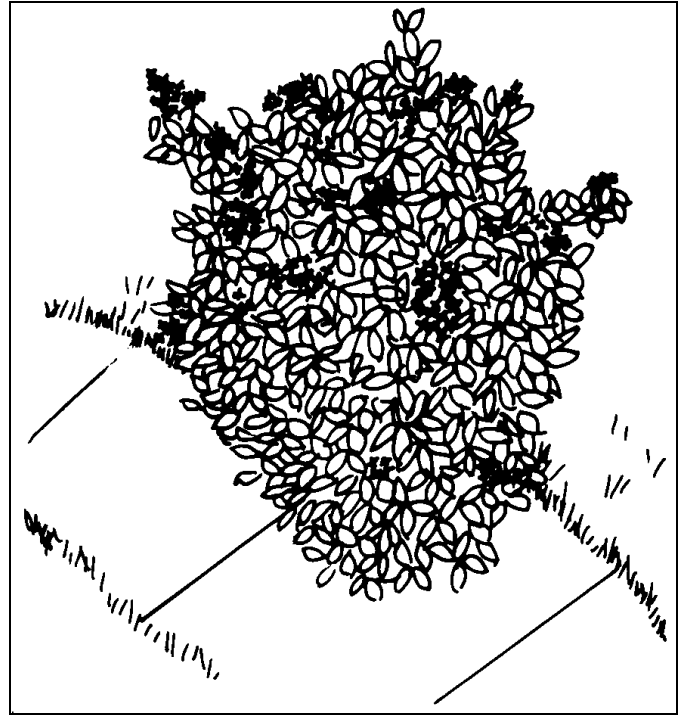


Figure 1. *Ixora*.

Spread: 4 to 10 feet

Plant habit: upright; oval

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** whorled
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** ovate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

Flower

- Flower color:** red; yellow; pink; white; orange
- Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** round
- Fruit length:** less than .5 inch
- Fruit cover:** fleshy
- Fruit color:** purple
- Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** reddish
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; acidic; loam
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

- Roots:** usually not a problem
- Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

Use and Management

Ixora thrives in full sun in moist but well-drained acid soil but can tolerate some shade. Foliage turns yellow in alkaline soil such as next to sidewalks and foundations, where it is often planted. A continued micronutrient fertility program is needed to maintain green leaf color in alkaline soil.

The cultivar 'Fraseri' has brilliant reddish-salmon flowers. 'Crimson King' has bright red flowers. Dwarf cultivars are available and are well suited for container planting.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Problems include nematodes, aphids, bagworms and scale. Chlorosis in alkaline soil makes this a high maintenance plant in many coastal landscapes. Treatment with an appropriate micronutrient fertilizer can temporarily prevent or correct chlorosis. Chelates with iron and/or manganese correct and help prevent chlorosis.

Pests and Diseases

Mushroom root rot can be a problem for Ixora.



Figure 3. Flower of Ixora