



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Pyrostegia venusta*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

Also known as *Pyrostegia ignea*, Flame Vine grows rapidly climbing by tendrils, this vigorous evergreen vine makes a brilliant fall and winter display of reddish-orange, 3-inch-long tubular flowers borne in clusters of 15 to 20 (Fig. 1). Covering everything which can offer a good support, Flame Vine should be planted with caution as it has been known to cover, then strangle trees with its rampant growth. It has escaped cultivation in much of Central Florida and is often seen in flower during the winter and spring growing in trees. It can be found occasionally in the southern parts of hardiness zone 8b. Heavy or frequent pruning is needed to restrain it to trellises or arbors, but the brilliant flower display makes this extra work worth the effort. It is ideal for covering fences but will often produce most of the flowers and foliage at the top of the fence. Regular heading back several of the stems can help develop some of the flowers and foliage on the lower and middle portions of the fence.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Pyrostegia venusta*

**Pronunciation:** pye-roe-STEEG-ee-uh ven-NUSS-tuh

**Common name(s):** Flame Vine

**Family:** *Bignoniaceae*

**Plant type:** vine

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9 through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** espalier

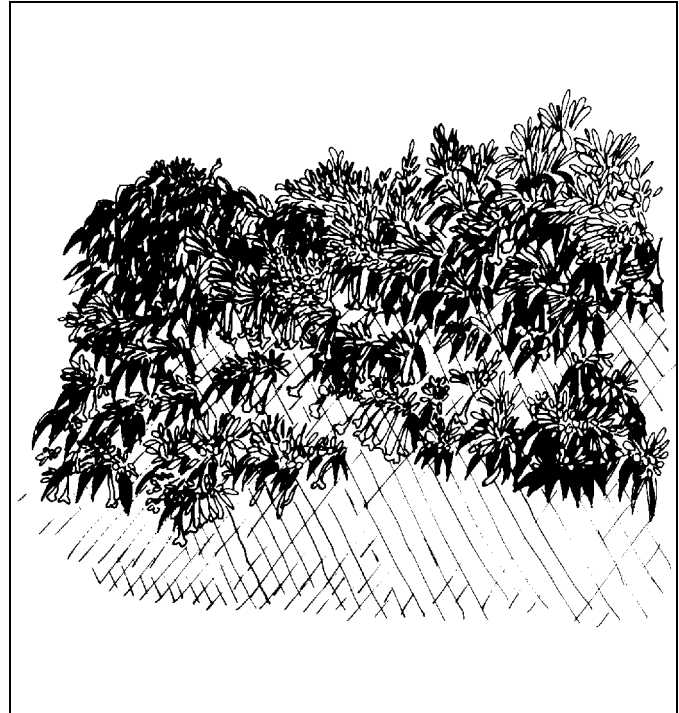


Figure 1. Flame Vine.

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

### Description

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** dense

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-496, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Growth rate:** fast  
**Texture:** medium

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite  
**Leaf type:** palmately compound  
**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:** orange  
**Flower characteristic:** winter flowering; fall flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** elongated  
**Fruit length:** 6 to 12 inches

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard  
**Fruit color:** unknown  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** usually with one stem/trunk  
**Current year stem/twig color:** brown  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

**Culture**

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

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**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:** potentially invasive

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

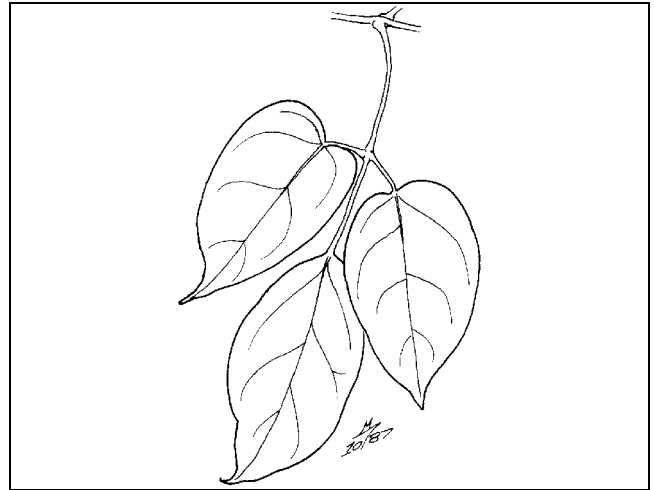
## Use and Management

Growing in full sun to partial shade, Flame Vine will tolerate a wide range of soils. Flame Vine sometimes flowers lightly during the summer.

Propagation is by cuttings or layering.

## Pests and Diseases

Scales, caterpillars, and mites can be a problem for Flame Vine.



**Figure 3.** Foliage of Flame Vine