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| Botanical Name | Calliandra haematocephala |
| Common Name | Dwarf Powder Puff |
| Mature Size | 3' x 3' |
| Bloom Color | Red |
| Bloom Period | Late Spring to Fall |
| Boom Form | Puff Ball |
| Water | Moderate |
| Light | Full Sun to Filtered Shade |
| USDA Zone | 9 & South |
| Fragrance | None |
| Uses | Specimen, Low Hedge, Border |
| Special Features | EZ Care Attracts Hummingbird/Butterflies |



***Calliandra haematocephala* or Dwarf Powder Puff Plant** is a fairly fast growing, flowering, semi-tropical shrub that is related to *Mimosas*. It is one of a few dozen cultivars of the unique and interesting species. The naming of this cultivar as a Dwarf variety is a somewhat relative term, although it will mature into a good sized plant with a mature size of about 3 to 5 feet if left to its own devices, it grows smaller than several of the other types.

The prolific scarlet red puff ball shaped flowers begin as small clustered buds that resemble small berries, and are present throughout the warm season beginning in the very early spring and lasting until the nights drop into the 40's and 50's in the Fall. The flowers are very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.

The ***Dwarf Powder Puff Plant*** grows bushy and upright with multiple, thin, cane like branches and unusual medium sized oval, pinnate leaves, that fold together like praying hands at night.

It is an attractive single specimen plant or in group plantings. It is semi-tropical and recommended for Zones 8B to 11. In 8B it is considered root hardy when very well established, and is typically knocked to the ground by the first frost and resprouts in the Spring, but is sometimes lost during harsher than average winters. It can be grown as a potted plant indefinitely and is frequently grown in a bonsai form.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants is not recommended, so for the best results with your new plant, we recommend it be re-potted and allowed to grow larger before setting out in the landscape within the recommended USDA Zone range.

When the new pot has filled with roots and the plant is larger, then here a few hints for successful growing in the landscape. can be grown as a potted plant indefinitely.

- Plant in fertile well draining, slightly acidic soil. Amend with high quality organic material as needed.
- Locate in full sun to very lightly dappled shade.
- Provide supplemental irrigation.
- Feed a good quality, slow release, bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and twice yearly in the early Spring and early Fall thereafter.
- Prune lightly and often when young to encourage branching and after flowering to promote uniform shape and control size.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

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Care of Your New Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately re-pot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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