

Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

A Gift from Our Garden

Botanical Name	Hamelia patens 'Firefly'
Common Name	Firebush Firefly
Mature Size	3 ft. to 6 ft.
Bloom Color	Yellow, Orange, Red
Bloom Period	Late Spring to Fall
Bloom Form	Trumpet Shaped Cluster
Water	Moderate
Light	Full Sun
Fragrance	None
Uses	Boundary, Border, Specimen, Large Potted Feature
Special Features	Attracts Hummingbirds and Butterflies
USDA Hardiness	8, 9, 10, 11



Hamelia patens or Firebush has been among the most popular items for the subtropical landscape and especially for butterfly gardens and wildlife habitat areas in the past few years. The large, Florida Native type grows lush and full and is always nearly covered with bright scarlet to orange tubular flowers that hummingbirds and butterflies cannot resist. Birds enjoy the berry that follows the flower. It is a great plant for any area where you like to draw in the wildlife, as many critters find the flowers and the berry irresistible, however the native cultivar grows very large easily getting 12' to 15' tall and as big around, making it awkward and problematic for small urban lots. The newer 'Firefly' cultivar bridges that problem.

Firefly is a somewhat smaller growing hybrid cultivar of the non native African hamelia species. It has the same tubular shaped flowers, green ovate leaves with red new growth, but on a smaller scale and with more yellow coloration in the flower. **Firefly Firebush** matures into a dense, rounded shrub ranging from 3' to 6' tall, and is equally as attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and birds as it's larger cousin.

Firebush will grow in a wide range of soil conditions and does not require much care. It needs irrigation until it becomes established, but then is quite drought tolerant. It does best in full sun, but will tolerate the shade, just taking on a more leggy open habit and produces fewer blooms. It makes a great border, background or screen plantings in mass, or is a great stand alone accent, or makes a knock out small patio standard form tree.

Find a larger starter size **Firefly Firebush** on our website and skip the wait to maturity on your starter plug!
https://www.emeraldgoddessgardens.com/shop/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=38&products_id=149

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Please accept this gift from our garden:

- It is sent with our thanks, and in an effort to keep the old tradition of pass-along plants alive.
- We understand that it might not be a plant you like, or even have spot for. If that should be the case, then please pass it along to a friend. (Along with our contact information, we hope!)
- We change the type of plant that we enclose frequently, so you can anticipate a new surprise with each new order.
- *Enjoy, and please come back often!*

The Family and Staff of:

Emerald Goddess Gardens

Emeraldgoddessgardens.com

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Care of your starter plug:

Direct planting of starter plugs directly into landscaped is not recommended. So, for the best results with your new starter plug, we suggest that it be repotted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately re-pot the new plant into a 6-8 inch diameter pot 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.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum, light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- 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 day
- 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 strength the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly
- Protect from freeze and frost
- Allow the new plot to fill with roots before setting out in the landscape in the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant.

Gift plants are our courtesy way of saying Thank You and that we appreciate your order, and are not covered by any Warranty that may apply to your paid order. We hope you will enjoy.