

Emerald Goddess Gardens
emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Ruttya fruticosa Lindau	
Common Name	Hummingbird Plant	
Mature Size	6'x6'	
Bloom Color	Bright Orange Brown	
Bloom Period	Summer	
Boom Form	Bird Shaped	
Water	Moderate	
Light	Full Sun to Light Shade	
USDA Zone	8B & South	
Fragrance	None	
Uses	Trellis or Specimen	
Special Features	Unusual Bloom	

Hummingbird Bush is a fairly rare and lesser known, but highly sought after, flowering subtropical, shrub that is native to tropical South Africa. It is a quick vigorous growing, vine like bush that will easily reach 6 feet tall at maturity in semi tropical climates. This unique and interesting plant is also known by several other common names, such as Jammy Mouth, Orange Dragon, Monkey Face, Jembekkie, and African Azalea.

The flowers are a beautiful cascade of bright orange tubes marked with brown, that actually resemble little hummingbirds, and are an irresistible attractant for their namesakes. The beautiful, unique blooms are literally dripping with nectar that hummingbirds are crazy about. Butterflies like it as a food source, but not as a host plant (no caterpillars).

It is considered hardy to Zone 8B, so it does have some degree of cold tolerance once very well established. However in Zone 8B and and 9A, expect a very well established plant to die back in the winter and come back in the spring.

This plant blooms nearly year round and is a bright colorful accent plant, that is a great addition to butterfly and hummingbird gardens and/or other wildlife habitat areas. Also makes a great attention getting conversation piece, and thoughtful gift for gardener.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants is not generally recommended, so for the best results, re-pot your new plant and allow it to grow for several weeks until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out into the landscape:

When your new plant has grown large enough be planted into the landscape:

- Plant in fertile, well draining soil. Amend with high quality compost as needed.
- Locate in full sun to lightly dappled shade
- Supply supplemental irrigation.
- Prune for shape and to maintain size after flowering.
- Feed a good quality slow release plant food Spring and Fall.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

Please email us with any growing or planting questions at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

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 repotted 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. Map is available on our website at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Immediately repot 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.

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

You can check your USDA Zone by visiting our website at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Ornamental Plants sold by Emerald Goddess Gardens are intended for use as ornamental decorative items only. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommend or endorse any other use.