

Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Justicia brandegeana 'Red Shrimp'
Common Name	Red Shrimp
Mature Size	3 to 4 feet
Bloom Color	Rusty Red
Bloom Period	Perpetual
Boom Form	Unusual Shrimp Shape
Water	Moderate
Light	Best in Light Shade
USDA Zone	9, 10, 11
Fragrance	None
Uses	Beds Borders Pots
Special Features	Unusual Flowers Attracts Butterflies & Hummingbirds



Shrimp Plants are a part of the plant family of the justicias, which is very big species, and has lots of interesting cultivars. Of the *Shrimp* type *justicias*, the red, and the bright yellow varieties are probably the most popular and best known.

The **Red Shrimp Plant** grows in a clump of long slender stems that are topped by 3 inch to 4 inch long bright maroon red bracts (a type of plant tissue that is not actually a flower, but a form of leaf tissue...also seen in poinsettias and bougainvilleas). The actual 'flower' is then a white long tongue shaped pair of oval petals that extend out of the bright colored bract. The flower resembles a large shrimp in shape..hence the common name. Very interesting and unique, and still a treat not matter how many times you've seen it.

They will spread as new plants will form as the stems grow and become heavy and lay over and touch the ground. Shrimp plants benefit from a regular pruning. These can even be trained on trellises and fences by allowing the long stems to grow and then tying them to a support. Shrimps work great in mixed perennial beds, borders or any other pot where you want a mass of continuous color. The bloom cycle is long beginning in the early spring and lasting until early winter in tropical climates. They lend great interest, texture and color and are nice in combination with crotons, coleus or similar plants with colored leaves. Easy to grow, with lots of reward for little effort, Shrimps make a great addition to any garden setting. They can be grown outdoors in Zones 9, 10, 11 with protection from the occasional frosty morning, or grown indefinitely as potted plants, and makes a wonderful and thoughtful gift.

For the best results with your new **Red Shrimp Plant**:

- Plant them in well drained soil.
- Pick a lightly shaded location if possible for the best results (they will grow in the full sun, but need more irrigation and fertilize).
- Supply supplemental irrigation.
- Apply a high quality bloom boosting plant food in the late spring.
- Prune for shape and to control legginess after flowering.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

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

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

Care of Your New Shade Garden Plant

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

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 plant or repot the new plant into a prepared bed or a 6 inch to 10 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. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate in light to moderate shade. This plant must be 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, or adapted to growing indoors year round 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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