May & June Bloomer: Blood Lily

Blood Lily (*Scadoxus multiflorus*)

**Origin:** West and East Tropical Africa  
**Zone:** 9A—12 (Minimum 20°F)  
**Growth Rate:** Medium  
**Typical Height:** 18 to 24 inches  
**Light Requirements:** Low to medium  
**Drought Tolerance:** Medium  
**Salt Tolerance:** Low  
**Soil Requirements:** Acid  
**Nutritional Requirements:** Medium  
**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial  
**Flower Color:** Red  
**Flowering Season:** Late spring; early summer  
**Propagation:** Division  
**Common Uses:** Specimen plant; containers; beds  
**Human Hazards:** Poisonous  
**Major Problems:** Fungal leaf spot  
**Additional Notes:** Must dry off in winter; partial shade best

In South Florida, inflorescence are produced with few or no leaves.  
Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, 26 May
Blood lily, *Scadoxus multiflorus*, blooms dependably in Lee County in late May. It begins flowering at the end of winter-spring dormancy at which time leaves are not fully extended. The inflorescence is a globular head of radiating red filaments. Blood lily is recommended for part sun to bright filtered light, but I have seen it growing in full sun in Jamaica. Keep it moist when actively growing and somewhat dry during cool-season dormancy. It is slow to spread. Leaves are strap-shaped, in a basal whorl.

**Click here** for flowering tree fact sheets.