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February-March Bloomer: Flame Vine; Orange-Creeper

A 20 foot growth in North Fort Myers, Mid-February

Flame Vine (*Pyrostegia venusta)*

Origin: Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina and Paraguay
Growth Rate: Fast
Zone: 10b—12 (Minimum 35°F)
Light Requirements: Medium; high
Drought Tolerance: High
Salt Tolerance: Low
Soil Requirements: Wide
Nutritional Requirements: Medium
Plant Type: Evergreen vine
Flower Color: Orange
Flower Characteristics: Showy
Flowering Season: Winter; spring
Propagation: Cuttings
Common Uses: Flowering Vine
Human Hazards: None
Major Problems: None

Flame vine at its peak in mid-February in Fort Myers

Leaf: Compound, with two to three oval leaflets. The bottom two leaflets are arranged opposite from each other. Often, the center leaflet is modified into a coiled tendril.
Flower: Tubular, borne in clusters of 15—20 flowers.

The flame vine is perhaps second to Confederate jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) in its popularity in South Florida. It is a vigorous, fast-growing, evergreen vine and an excellent cover for long horizontal fences and tall vertical posts. In Lee County, it is a reliable bloomer initiating flowering in late January or early February and coming to a crescendo in mid February and March. A single vine can be more than 80 ft. long and profusely branched. Prune moderately to severely to encourage branching and more flowers the next year. Unpruned vines tend to have decreasing numbers of flowers in successive years. Irrigate well for several weeks after pruning.

Click here for more information on the flame vine.

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