Firespike

Today on Gardening in a Minute: firespike

Firespike adds a big pop of red to the garden, making some gardeners suggest that it’s the equivalent of red salvia on steroids.

The foot-long spikes of showy flowers appear year-round in South Florida and during fall and winter in North and Central Florida. They attract hummingbirds and several species of butterflies that feed on the nectar.

Firespike can be planted all year in Florida and will tolerate a variety of soil conditions.

Plant firespike in full sun for best blooming. Once established, firespike is moderately drought tolerant. Firespike tends to form a clump, so be sure to give it plenty of room to spread.

A hard freeze can kill the above-ground growth, but the plant will typically return in the spring. Firespike often re-seeds itself and can also be propagated by cuttings.

For more information about firespike and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.