Firebush

Today on Gardening in a Minute: firebush.

Looking for a flowering plant with explosive color?

Firebush is a perennial or semi-woody shrub that produces clusters of red to orange tubular flowers from spring through fall.

The flowers attract both hummingbirds and butterflies, including the native zebra longwing and gulf fritillary.

Both the native firebush and the dwarf variety are often available at Florida nurseries.

Depending on where it’s planted, it can grow up to twelve feet tall. Firebush flowers best if it’s planted in full sun, but it will tolerate partial shade. Be sure to water it on a regular basis until it’s established.

Firebush will die to the ground after a freeze, but will return in the spring.

It’s also somewhat tolerant of salt spray, making it a good Florida-Friendly choice for gardens near the coast.

For more information about firebush 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.