



# Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## *Anisacanthus wrightii*

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

### Common name

Flame acanthus, Texas firecracker plant

### Range

Adapted to the varying topography of the Edwards Plateau and northern Mexico.

### Bloom period

Intermittently from mid-summer to the first frost.

### Growth habit

Small, spreading, deciduous shrub, up to 4 feet tall and 5 feet wide. The light green leaves provide a striking contrast to the brilliant orange, tubular flowers, which appear singly or in pairs. The branches, either upright or drooping, have a greenish tinge when young.

### Soil preference

Adapts to a wide variety of soils, from rocky slopes to open areas.

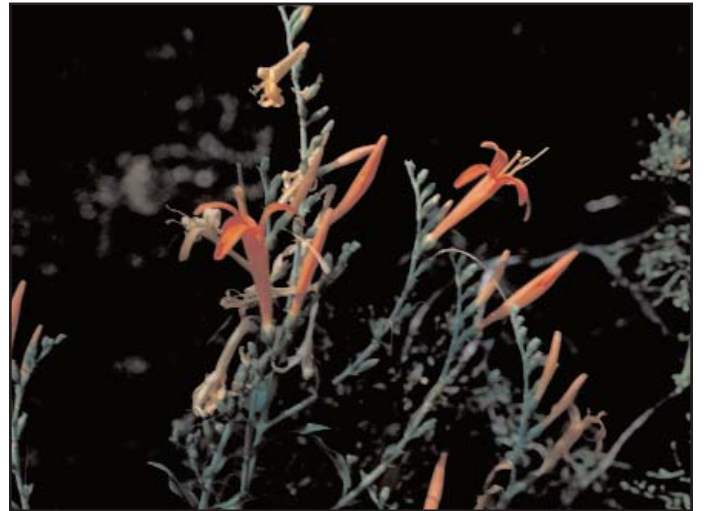
### Exposure

Full sun to partial shade.

### Propagation

*Anisacanthus wrightii* is commercially available. The easiest method of propagation is to take cuttings from the current season's growth. Cut a 4 - 6 inch branch just below a node. Remove lower leaves and root in flats or small pots. Mist rooted cuttings as necessary.

*A. wrightii* also grows well from seed. Collect seeds after the capsules containing the seeds are dry. Plant outside after the danger of frost has past. Or, for a sturdier, heat-tolerant plant sow seeds earlier indoors. Plant seeds no more than 1/3 - 1/2 inches deep in a well-drained soil mix. Keep soil moist but not saturated.



### Miscellaneous

*A. wrightii* is a good choice for sunny areas with poor soils. Pruning in winter encourages more blooms and a compact shape. The blooms provide a rich nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies.