



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Passiflora coccinea*¹

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Introduction

Red Passion Flower is an evergreen, flowering vine from South America that climbs by tendrils (Fig. 1). Its height and spread varies depending on the structure it climbs on. The flower of *Passiflora coccinea* is a spectacular scarlet to deep orange color and generally reaches a width of 3 to 5 inches. Each unique flower lasts about one day appearing in the summer and early fall. They fill the plant making Passion Vine a fine flowering plant for central and south Florida. The evergreen leaves are obovate in shape and have doubly serrate margins. Fruits of Red Passion Flower are ovoid, orange or yellow in color, and are mottled green. They are attractive and edible and attain a diameter of 2 ½ to 3 inches.

General Information

Scientific name: *Passiflora coccinea*

Pronunciation: pass-siff-FLOR-ruh kock-SIN-nee-uh

Common name(s): Red Passion Flower, Passion Vine

Family: *Passifloraceae*

Plant type: vine

USDA hardiness zones: 9B through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: attracts butterflies; attracts hummingbirds; cascading down a wall

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

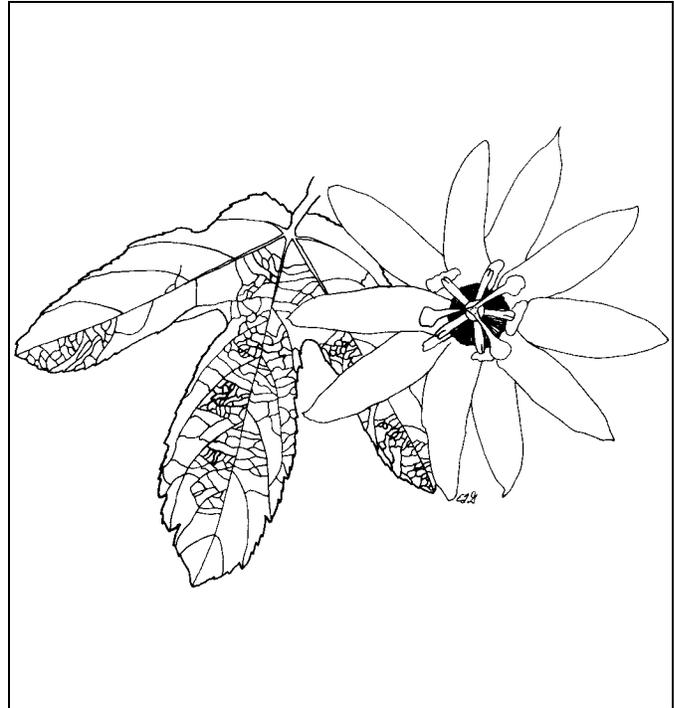


Figure 1. Red Passion Flower.

Description

Height: depends upon supporting structure

Spread: depends upon supporting structure

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** double serrate
- Leaf shape:** oblong
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

Flower

- Flower color:** red
- Flower characteristic:** summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** oval
- Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- Fruit cover:** dry or hard
- Fruit color:** yellow
- Fruit characteristic:** suited for human consumption

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable
- Current year stem/twig color:** green
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun
- Soil tolerances:** occasionally wet; acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** poor
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

- Roots:** not applicable
- Winter interest:** no special winter interest
- Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Passion Vine can be supported on a fence, trellis or arbor. Members of this genus are often grown for their attraction to butterflies, but may escape cultivation and spread to surrounding landscapes. Fertilize two or three times each year to maintain vigorous growth.

Red Passion Flower is moderately drought tolerant and can be grown in different soils. This plant does require a position in the landscape that receives full sun for best flowering.

There are at least six native species of *Passiflora* in Florida, *incarnata*, *lutea*, *multiflora*, *pallens*, *sexflora*, and *suberosa*. *Passiflora incarnata* is by far the most showy with pink and purple 4-inch-wide flowers appearing in the warm months. Although its natural range extends only slightly into south Florida, it can probably be grown in most of south Florida with little trouble. In most cases, this plant would be preferable over introduced species such as *Passiflora foetida* which has become invasive in Palm Beach County and is spreading.

The Red Passion Flower is propagated by seeds or cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

Nematodes can be a serious problem. Caterpillars slow growth by eating foliage.