

# Purple Firespike

Tall spikes of purple narrow tubular flowers that open to display reflexing narrow petals are produced mainly from fall through spring but may be produced any time of year under good conditions. The flowers attract hummingbirds and larger butterflies. Purple Firespike is a shade tolerant species bothered by few pests or diseases and is quite adaptable to soil types but prefers regular moisture and average fertility. Naturally an evergreen, shrub-like perennial in frost free locations it can also be grown as a die-back perennial into zone 8 if given winter protection such as a mulch. Purple Firespike also makes an easy tropical looking container plant for the porch and patio and can be overwintered indoors where not hardy.



If well-established Firespike is generally considered hardy well into zone 8B. Plant it once the danger of frost has past to give it the best chance of getting established before the first frost and freeze. Providing a mulch and a protected area will help as well. It is also easy enough to overwinter a few cuttings indoors to plant the following spring.