

Red Bird of Paradise

Botanically known as the *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, this stunning plant with vivid red blooms belongs to the *Fabaceae*, which is the Legume family.

It is known by several popular names, including the Peacock Flower, the Pride of Barbados, of the more common red Bird of Paradise.

It is an evergreen, broad-leaved shrub that can be found in arid zones and will bloom repeatedly with the much-admired, bright red-orange flowers. Some will also have yellow flowers.

Not to be confused with the *Strelitzia reginae* Bird of Paradise plant, the Red Bird of Paradise will produce smaller flowers and bunches. Because it produces prickly thorns on its stem, it makes a beautiful plant as a hedge or barrier and also produces a lovely fragrance.

It can be grown without difficulty in USDA hardiness zones 9 through 11 as it loves a hot climate and thrives even in poor soil. It can also be cultivated as a container plant.

This plant can grow up to twenty feet tall and produce striking colorful blooms until the first autumn frost. The green leaves are lush and fern-like, completing this plant's showy appearance.

Ideally, a sandy porous potting medium should be used. If cultivating in a container, add peat or sand to your potting soil.

The Red Bird of Paradise enjoys full sunlight exposure, although it can manage with partial shade. Northern exposures should be avoided to ensure successful growth.



