

Coralbush, Coral Plant, Physic Nute, Guatemala Rhubarb (*Jatropha multifida*)



A small tree or shrub with a palm-like look. Showy coral-type flowers and big bright yellow nuts. Grown for its distinctive leaves and flashy red flowers. Very fast growing, ever-blooming, nice landscape and specimen plant. Can be grown in a container indoors or on patio. Very topical-looking. Typical height in cultivation of 6-10 ft, although it can grow up to 20 ft tall. These take cutting back well, and can be kept at nearly any height. Sap is sticky and staining, use care when trimming. Hardy to zone 9b

(32° F); keep as container plant in colder zones.

Your plants have been through a hard trip and need a little TLC to get going again. I suggest planting in 1 gallon pots and keeping in a **PARTIALLY SHADED** location and well watered for about a week or so or until they seem to have recovered. Be sure to use well draining potting mix; don't allow the soil to remain wet. When they have recovered, you may plant in full sun or part shade, even in the hottest zones.

When your plants have recovered and are ready to be planted out in the landscape: dig hole in desired spot in full sun or part shade. Place plant in hole so that top of root ball is level with the surrounding soil or slightly deeper. Fill in hole with soil and firm plant in. Water well and apply your favorite fertilizer according to package directions during the summer growing season.

Water every 2 or 3 days until plants are established, after that these plants can stand quite dry and hot conditions. Do not let water stand. Make sure the area is well draining, not boggy.

These can also be kept as container plants, the larger the container the larger the plant will become. Use a well-draining container and soil. Fertilize with any 'average' fertilizer (like Miracle Grow or a 10-10-10 type) and water when the soil is dry.

The butterflies LOVE the blooms of these plants and you'll love the interesting leaves. Seed pods form after the flowers, usually only 2-3 per cluster of flowers. They get about as large as marbles and turn yellow and fall from the plant when they are mature. To store the seeds, allow them to dry in a shady, dry place until the covering is brown, then keep in a cool, dry, dark location. Break the pod apart to reveal from 1-3 seeds within.