



XERISCAPE

Nature's Choice of Landscape

Caesalpinia Bird of Paradise

Caesalpinias make the landscape come alive with color. Their large bright flowers provide vibrant color for long periods of time. The shades of yellow, fiery red, and orange contrast with the feathery foliage.

Commonly called bird of paradise, they range in size from medium shrubs to small trees. They thrive in the desert heat and can survive on little supplemental irrigation. Provide deep watering every two weeks while blooming in order to prolong flowering and keep plants healthy.

Bird of paradise is tolerant of most soil conditions but prefers well drained soils. Chlorosis can occur in heavy soils but is easily treated with iron chelate. The deciduous varieties can be pruned back severely during the winter when they are dormant, and new growth will occur in the spring. This pruning will also keep the form more round and compact. The seed pods should not be eaten.



Caesalpinia pulcherrima



Caesalpinia mexicana



Caesalpinia pulcherrima

Featured Plants
Presented in
Cooperation
with
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Association
and Arizona
Municipal
Water Users
Association

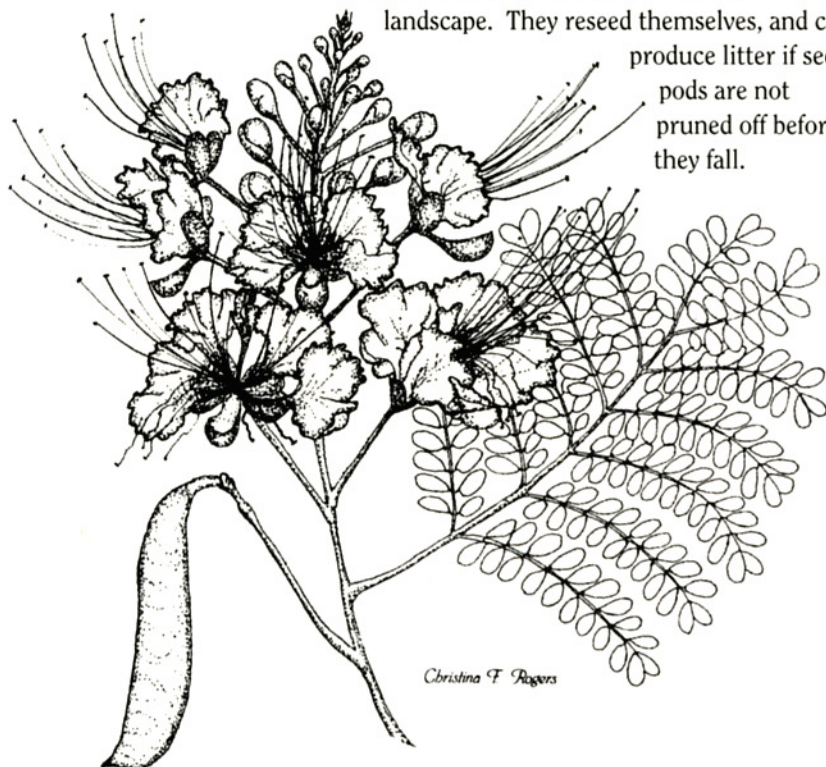


Caesalpinia gilliesii
Desert/Yellow Bird of Paradise

This bird of paradise produces large clusters of yellow flowers with long red stamens. It is generally open in form with a slender trunk and medium green leaflets. The spring to summer bloom is followed by 4 to 5 inch seed pods. Yellow bird of paradise is usually deciduous except in the warmest areas, but seldom looks its best during the winter. It reaches a height of 6 to 10 feet and a spread of 4 to 6 feet at maturity.

Yellow bird of paradise makes an excellent accent plant in either the tropical or desert landscape. They reseed themselves, and can

produce litter if seed pods are not pruned off before they fall.



Christina F. Rogers

Caesalpinia pulcherrima
Red Bird of Paradise

The red bird of paradise is not as cold hardy as yellow bird of paradise. The summer blooms of orange and yellow flower clusters add a vibrant accent to the landscape. This vase shaped shrub thrives in the hottest areas of the landscape, blooming throughout the warm season. Once roots are established, cut the stems back to the ground in the winter. Established, untrimmed plants can reach a height of over 6 feet. The flower clusters are followed by 3 to 6 inch seed pods.

This variety makes an excellent accent plant, providing a super show of color throughout the summer. It requires good drainage to perform at its best, and is susceptible to Texas root rot.

Caesalpinia mexicana
Mexican Bird of Paradise

The Mexican bird of paradise's lush, deep foliage sets it apart. It is evergreen in warm protected areas of the landscape. Mexican bird of paradise produces bright yellow flower clusters throughout the warm season. Mexican bird of paradise can easily be pruned into a small tree. Its mature height can reach 8 to 10 feet with similar spread.

Mexican bird of paradise requires full sun to keep it full and dense. It makes an excellent accent and oasis plant for tropical, natural or desert landscapes. Water every 2 weeks while blooming with little or no supplemental watering required during other times. Prune in early spring to shape and control growth.

CHARACTERISTICS

Botanical Name Common Name	Size Ht. x W.	Evergreen	Flower Season	Flower Color	Foliage Texture	Foliage Color	Hardiness (degrees F)	Growth Rate	Litter	Thorns	Exposure
<i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i> Desert/yellow Bird of Paradise	5x5	N	Sp & S	Yellow	Fine	Green	5	Slow	Min.	N	Sun
<i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i> Mexican Bird of Paradise	10x6	Y	Sp-F	Yellow	Fine	Dark Green	18	Fast	Mod.	N	Sun
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> Red Bird of Paradise	6x6	N	Sp & S	Orange	Fine	Dark Green	30	Fast	Mod.	N	Sun