



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Bat-face Flower or Perrito Colorado *Cuphea llavea*

DESCRIPTION: An herbaceous plant from tropical Mexico that grows to about two feet tall and wide with loosely branching stems. The strange flowers have only two petals and they are of the deepest crimson imaginable. The throat of the flower tube is blackish purple. Flowers profusely from April until frost, and nearly all year if not frozen. This plant seems to live for two to four years before becoming senescent. New plants can be easily started from tip cuttings.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a color spot for the protected mini-oasis zone. Also good for containers.

CULTURE:



shelter

Hardiness: 24°F. Frost tender, but will often regrow from roots if given some shelter during hard freezes.



daily.

Sun tolerance: Best in partial shade. Can be grown in full sun if watered almost



use

Watering and feeding: Not drought tolerant; keep soil moist at all times. Water is moderately high in shade, very high in sun. Feed regularly for continuous bloom.



Soil requirements: Humus-rich and moist



Pruning: Gets leggy; prune back at least once a year.