

XERISCAPE
NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Caesalpinia

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.

Both hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to the blooms.

Caesalpinia gillesii

Desert 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. Desert 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. Desert 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.

Caesalpinia pulcherrima

Red Bird of Paradise

The red bird of paradise is not as cold hardy as other varieties. The summer bloom 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 within 12 inches of 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. Look for yellow flowering selections of this plant for added color variety in your landscape. 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 green 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. It 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.