

Red Buckeye / Firecracker Plant

Aesculus pavia, known as **red buckeye** or **firecracker plant** (formerly *Pavia rubra*), is a species of deciduous flowering plant. The small tree or shrub is native to the southern and eastern parts of the United States, found from Illinois to Virginia in the north and from Texas to Florida in the south.

It has several local names, such as scarlet buckeye, woolly buckeye and firecracker plant.

The red buckeye is a large shrub or small tree. It reaches a height of 16–26 ft, often growing in a multi-stemmed form. Its leaves are opposite, and are composed usually of five elliptical serrated leaflets, each 4–6 in long. It bears 4–7 in long clusters of attractive dark red tubular flowers in the spring. The flowers are hermaphrodite. The smooth light brown fruits, about 1 in or so in diameter, reach maturity in early fall.

The flowers are attractive to hummingbirds as well as bees.

