

## Cigarette - Plant



The red tubular flowers of the cigarette plant (*Cuphea signia*) resemble a lit cigar when in full bloom. These bushy perennials can grow up to 2 ½ feet tall, providing a boldly blooming accent piece in a large pot or garden bed.

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### Price

Sales price R 910

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Description

## Description for Cigarette

Cigarette plant features tubular, orange-red flowers rimmed with white and purple, giving the flowers the look of a burning cigar with ashes at the tip. The flowers appear in abundance from early summer to late fall. They are about 1 in (2.5 cm) long, growing singly from the axils of the leaves.

This evergreen sub-shrub is fast-growing, reaching its mature height in a year. Narrow leaves are 2 in (5 cm) long and densely cover the woody stems. Prune it quite a bit to keep it small and bushy.

Common name	Flower colours	Bloom time	Height	Difficulty
cigar plant, cigarette plant, firecracker plant, cigar flower	Orange-red tubular flowers rimmed with white and purple rings	Early summer to late fall.	2 ft (60 cm)	Easy

## Planting and care

This evergreen sub-shrub is fast-growing, reaching its mature height in a year. Narrow leaves are 2 in (5 cm) long and densely cover the woody stems. Prune it quite a bit to keep it small and bushy.

This flowering shrub is easy to grow. Just give it lots of sunlight and you'll enjoy plenty of flowers. Unfortunately, this vigorous grower will become straggly over time. Plan on replacing *Cuphea* signed after a couple years or so.

Sunlight	Soil	Water	Temperature	Fertilizer
Bright light to full sun	Any good potting mix.	Spring through fall, water	Average room temperatures	Feed every 2 weeks spring

thoroughly. Allow the soil to 60-75°F/16-24°C. If you dry slightly between watering, but don't allow it to dry out completely. Keep the soil slightly drier in winter. move your plant outdoors for the summer, don't worry; it can take the heat. It won't, however, tolerate temperatures below 50°F/10°C. through fall with a high-potassium liquid fertilizer diluted by half.

### Caring for Cigarette

- Pinch back the stem tips occasionally to maintain a dense compact shape.
- Repot in spring when this shrubby plant gets crowded.
- Use a pot with drainage holes to prevent over watering as it will rot at the base if the soil gets too soggy.
- Inspect the foliage weekly for aphid damage, which shows as discolored spots on the foliage or a sticky residue on leaves.

### Typical uses of Cigarette

**Special features:** Plant a mass of cigar plants near a window or the patio where you can enjoy watching hordes of happy hummingbirds come to feast on the beautiful banquet that you have left for them.

### References

<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/care-cigar-plant-69404.html> <http://www.guide-to-houseplants.com/cigar-plant.html>