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the small fruits are edible. They're about 10mm wide when ripe and mostly tasteless. Ixora doesn't grow berries at once, so you'll need to plant quite a few of them to eat or use the berries regularly. Most types of Ixora need full sun to maximize flower production. If you're not growing them for the flowers, you can put them in partially shady areas. Large-leaved versions of Ixora handle shade better than versions with smaller leaves. No. Ixora grows slowly, so if you're planting them together to build a hedge, they may take several years to intertwine properly. They can reach impressive heights if given time to grow, but most people trim them to approximately around three or four feet for cosmetic reasons. Dwarf Ixora will reach their full height quicker than traditional varieties. Many people grow dwarf variants indoors instead of outdoors, but you can plant the miniature versions outside if you want a lower flowering shrub. Ixora is not known to be toxic when taken or prepared in regular amounts. It is not widely toxic to humans, dogs, cats, or most other pets. The berries are generally safe and edible by humans when ripe. However, like all medicinal substances, it could become toxic if you concentrate its elements or take too much at once. Researchers have not extensively studied this plant to the point that it can be determined if it can become toxic. The berries should be fine, but do not prepare Ixora as medicine without consulting a qualified expert. Ixora blooms more when you put it through annual pruning, carefully avoiding the tips of the branches where new buds are coming out. If you need to do significant pruning, try to do it at the start of spring before it starts adding new growth. Ixora likes coffee grounds if you're using them to adjust the soil acidity to its preferred range. Coffee grounds help add acidity. As long as you keep the soil between 5.5 and 6.5, your Ixora should be happy. Technically, they're both. In tropical and subtropical climates, Ixora are perennials that can bloom throughout the year. Their robust flower production makes them better for decorative purposes than competing plants that only flower for a few weeks at most. However, some people grow them as annuals in colder climates. In this case, they bloom around summer and some parts of fall, then die off once winter comes. This is somewhat more labor-intensive than growing them as perennials, but it is doable. The best way to get Ixora is usually by purchasing a professionally-grown cutting. You can make your cutting following the instructions earlier in this guide, but getting an established cut is much faster and easier than growing it yourself. Ixora is much more widely available in tropical areas where they serve as popular decorative plants. It's harder to find them in areas where they aren't common, but large greenhouses might stock a few. Alternatively, you can ask a plant company to order or grow them for you. You can buy Ixora seeds online. However, this is inherently risky because the seeds can be sensitive, and many won't germinate at all. It takes weeks to see if the seeds are viable. This is fine if you are willing to take the risk, but getting an established cutting is far more reliable if you want to plant your Ixora as soon as possible. Most varieties of Ixora have a relatively mild smell. Some people describe it as a mix of a light soap with a bit of citrus in it. Essentially, these aren't plants you grow for the smell. The exception to this is Ixora Odorata, which originally comes from Madagascar. As the name might suggest, it has a more pungent, sweeter smell than other varieties of Ixora. This variety's flowers are always white, so keep that in mind when planning your garden layout. Ixora flowers vary in color depending on the variety you have. Standard colors include red, white, pink, orange, and yellow, with most bushes having only a single color on them. The star-shaped flowers have four petals each, arranged like a cross with slightly curved petals. Ixora flowers bloom in clusters that can be up to a foot across, with each cluster having up to several dozen flowers in overlapping layers. Flowers usually last at least a month on the stem and may remain for up to eight weeks. Under ideal conditions, they'll soon be replaced by other flowers. That's one of the main draws for planting them. Petals on normal Ixora are about two inches long. Some varieties have a larger flower, but they mostly don't go any smaller than two inches. West Indian Jasmine is a great hedge shrub in warm environments that support it. Though slow-growing, its vividly colored flowers and tendency to bloom throughout the year make it an excellent decorative option. Its denseness is also suitable for creating privacy, making it helpful on both sides. However, this plant is somewhat harder to grow in colder climates. While you can put it in a greenhouse, you'll be missing most of its value unless the walls are transparent enough to look through. This plant will work better as an indoor plant in cold areas, especially if you can maintain temperatures at 60 degrees or higher. Ixora is a tropical to semi-tropical evergreen shrub that is suitable for landscapes in USDA zones 9 and above. The plant is often grown as an annual in temperate and cooler climates. Ixora shrubs are known for their large corymbs of bright florets. The large flower clusters come in red, orange, yellow, and pink, and it's also known as jungle flame and flame of the woods. Minimal maintenance is needed when growing an Ixora bush. Learn how to grow Ixora as part of your tropical or summer garden.About Ixora ShrubsIf you don't live in Florida or any other warm weather state, you may not know about Ixora shrubs. The plant can be used in other zones as an annual or as a container plant that gets moved indoors when cold temperatures threaten. The plant has glossy leathery leaves that are oval shaped and stiff. You may like The plant is similar in appearance to and related to the gardenia. Blooms are clusters of four petaled florets which can last four to six weeks on the stem. Flowers are most prolific in summer but can also appear at other times of the year.How to Grow IxoraThe best floral displays are produced by Ixora grown in full sun situations. Well-drained soil and moderate to slightly acidic pH is crucial to growing an Ixora bush. The plant develops chlorosis when installed in alkaline soils. Keep the soil evenly moist and prune the plant when it gets unruly. Ixora responds well to shearing and makes an excellent low hedge with its 4 to 6 foot (1-2 m.) height. Propagation of the shrub is through stem cuttings which can be rooted with the help of a rooting hormone. The flowers also occasionally produce a dark purple to black berry with seeds that are sometimes viable. Clean the pulp off the seed and soak it overnight. Plant in a 2 inch (5 cm.) pot filled with good seed starter mix. Moisten the mixture and fasten a plastic bag over the pot. Place in a warm location with moderate light. Keep the pot moist and move it to bright light as soon as the seed has germinated.Sign up for the Gardening Know How newsletter today and receive a free copy of our e-book "How to Grow Delicious Tomatoes".Care of Ixora PlantIxora plant care is negligible, which makes it useful as part of the low maintenance landscape. Annual spring pruning and fertilizing will enhance the plant's health. Some diseases that are common are fungal but can be minimized by suspending overhead watering. Water only the root zone to prevent the foliage from getting wet. Spider mites and aphids are common but are more of a nuisance than a serious threat. Use an insecticidal oil spray to combat these pests. Use a 2 to 3 inch (5-8 cm.) layer of mulch around the root zone to prevent competitive weeds, enhance water retention, and add organic nutrients to the soil. Care of Ixora plants in containers requires re-potting every two to three years. Bring the shrubs indoors if any frost is predicted. The plants are extremely tender and will succumb to freezing temperatures.

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