

# Firebush

(*Hamelia patens*)



Firebush

## Instant ID

- A flowering shrub that grows up to 12 feet tall
- Leaves are arranged in groups of three around a woody stem
- Evergreen leaves are covered with red “hairs” when young and have red or purple spots as they age
- Blooms in clusters at the tips of branches with flowers that are red-orange, small and tubular
- Berries are small and begin green before ripening to purplish-black

## Native Niches

- Found from Florida south to portions of Argentina
- Grows in the south and central portions of Florida
- Prefers the edges of wooded habitats and understories (areas beneath large trees) which receive more sun than shade



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## Plant Particulars

- Part of the coffee family
- An important nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds
- Berries are eaten by many bird species
- Very sensitive to freezing temperatures
- Has fewer flowers when in shaded areas
- Sap has been used to treat rashes
- Research has shown the firebush may have antibacterial properties

## Population Protection

- Using native plants, like firebush, in landscaping is a great way to stop the spread of invasive plants
- Nectar plants provide food sources for insects and hummingbirds

