



## **Tiny Mice Cuphea**

*Cuphea llavea 'Tiny Mice'*

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

### **Description:**

Small, freely branching shrub or subshrub with unusual tubular flowers lipped with upward facing red petals that look like mouse ears and purple eyes with dark red flutes; great for bedding, shrub borders, and containers in warm climates

### **Ornamental Features**

Tiny Mice Cuphea features showy red tubular flowers with purple throats and curiously fluted crimson tips along the branches from mid spring to mid fall. Its tomentose pointy leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

### **Landscape Attributes**

Tiny Mice Cuphea is a multi-stemmed annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Tiny Mice Cuphea is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Tiny Mice Cuphea flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder





### Planting & Growing

Tiny Mice Cuphea will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should be grown in a location with partial shade or which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Tiny Mice Cuphea is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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