

Featured Perennial

Crocasmia - Montbretia, Coppertips, Falling Stars

Submitted by: Keith A. Williamson
Little Valley Wholesale Nursery



Photo Credit: © Keith A Williamson

Botanic name:	<i>Crocasmia</i>
Common name:	Montbretia, Coppertips, Falling Stars
Height:	24 – 42 inches
Width:	15 – 24 inches
Light:	Full sun
Water:	Average
Soil:	Average, well-drained garden soil
Growth Habit:	Upright linear foliage with arching sprays of flowers
How to use:	Plant in perennial beds or borders

A Mid-summer Delight

For a burst of mid-summer color, *Crocasmia*, known as Montbretia, Coppertips, or Falling Stars, is a winner! Starting out as a corm (a type of bulb, like crocus or gladiolus), Montbretia produces stiffly upright, flattened blades of sword-like leaves that fan out from the central stem. In mid-summer, slender flower stems emerge beyond the topmost leaves and spread horizontally. Showy, tubular blossoms open in a flying wedge pattern on the arched spike, with blossom colors available in yellow, orange, and scarlet. The flowers are attractive to butterflies, and also to hummingbirds, which are drawn in to partake of the nectar found in each blossom. *Crocasmia* corms grow in a chain-like formation, and will spread underground to form a healthy clump up to 2 feet across over the course of a few years.

There are over 400 cultivars of *Crocasmia* that have been produced around the world, but only a few are reliably hardy in the central Rocky Mountain region. Suggested cultivars include 'Walberton Yellow' and 'George Davidson' (yellow), 'Walbreyes' (Bright Eyes – orange with a scarlet eye), 'Emberglow' (burnt orange), and 'Lucifer' (scarlet-red). 'Lucifer' is perhaps one of the hardiest and most common cultivars available, and it can be found growing in gardens as high as Aspen, Colorado (elevation 7,900'). To maximize successful establishment in the garden, plant the corms a good 6 to 8 inches deep and mulch heavily through the winter.



COLORADO NURSERY AND GREENHOUSE ASSOCIATION 959 South Kipling Parkway, Suite 200 | Lakewood, CO 80226

P 303.758.6672 | F 303.758.6805

coloradonga.org | info@coloradonga.org