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Lobelia cardinalis

cardinal flower



Light Requirements: **sun, part-sun, part-shade**

Soil Moisture: **moist, wet**

Soil Description: **rich, loam, clay, sand**

Height: **2'-5'**

Recommended Spacing: **12"-18"**

Bloom Time: **July, August, September**

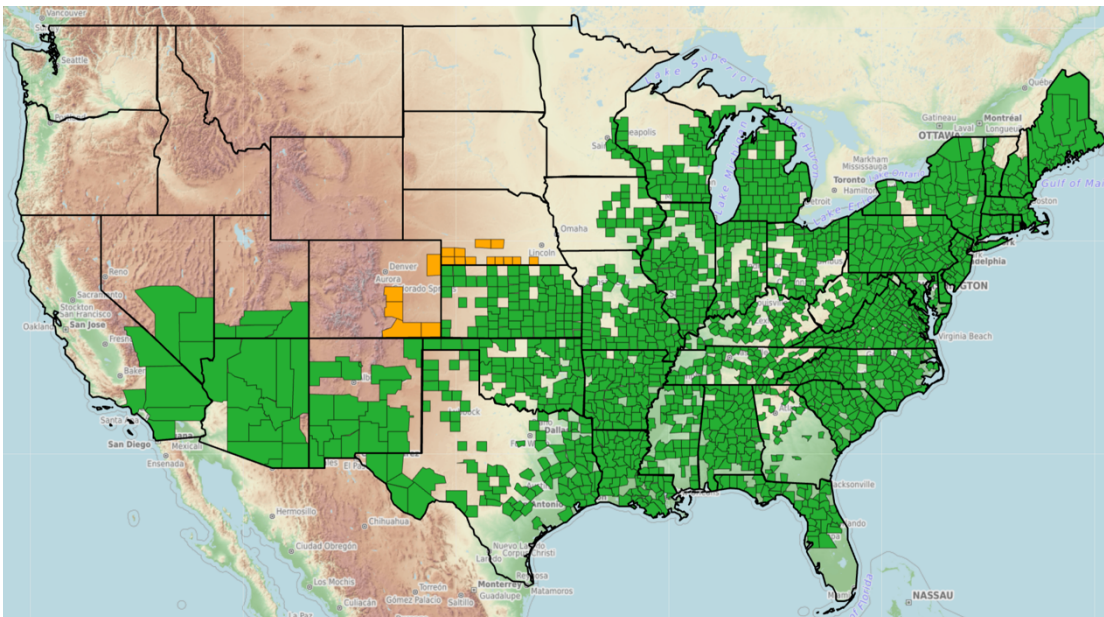
Bloom Color: **red**

Hardiness Zone: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9**

Additional Tags: **attracts hummingbirds, deer resistant, fall interest, pollinator favorite, pond margin plant, stream margin plant**

The tubular, 1½" long flowers of cardinal flower are so intensely red, it hardly seems possible nature could produce a color that intense. The plant has an erect, vertical habit, with deep-green, lance-shaped, coarsely serrated leaves up to 6" long. It produces an unbranched central stem that terminates in a flowering spike that can be up to 2' long.

Very adaptable, and not particular about soil, with the only requirement being that the soil not dry out for extended periods. It can grow in full sun just as well as in part-shade where it gets exposed to as little as 2 hours of direct sun per day. Just keep in mind that the more sun it is exposed to, the higher its water needs will be. Not long-lived, but it produces offsets from the rosette, and self-seeds to maintain a long-term presence in the landscape.



Map of Native Range
Color Key:

 Present
 Rare