

# Red Birds in a Tree

Ready for a perennial that will flourish in anything from sand to clay and full sun to part shade, needs little water after it's established, and blooms from May to Frost? Try Red Birds in a Tree (*Scrophularia macrantha*). Its name comes from the shape of the blooms, which do resemble tiny perching birds.

Cousin to our native penstemons, this tough and pretty member of the figwort family hails from New Mexico where it lives on mountain slopes. It continuously reblooms without deadheading, and the cherry red, tube shaped flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and our most important pollinator, bees. Rabbits, however, seem to leave this one alone.

At 3 feet tall, Red Birds likes to lean, so put it at the back of flower bed with a good supporting staff of tall salvias, or ornamental grasses. I think it would be pretty mixed with Russian Sage and Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia Goldsturm*).

Red Birds in a Tree (*Scrophularia macrantha*).

Perennial

Height: 36 inches

Width: 18 inches

Blooms: May to Frost

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Soil Moisture: Moderate to dry

Hardiness: USDA zones 4-9 (up to 8,000')

Culture: Sandy soil, clay or loam

