

Meet the September 2018 Featured Xeric Plant: Torch Lily

(*Kniphofia uvaria*) Liliaceae family

By Katie Ward, Broomfield Master Gardener Apprentice



This month's featured Xeriscape plant is the Torch Lily, commonly known as the *Red Hot Poker*. This herbaceous perennial plant is known for its upright, tubular flower spikes which emerge from clusters of green, grass like foliage. The Torch Lily blooms from the base and spikes upward displaying beautiful bi-colored red, orange or yellow "torches".

Here are a few fun facts about this gorgeous xeric plant!

About Me:

- I'm originally from South Africa but really enjoy living in Colorado
- I like full sun, but also do well with partial shade
- I prefer moderate to dry conditions, and will need occasional deep watering during dry spells
- I do best in clay, loam or sandy soil and grow in USDA Zones 4b to 9 (up to 7,000')
- I like my space and will thrive if you plant me 18-24" from others
- I bloom in late July through September and display a beautiful red, orange and/or yellow color
- I stand upright, averaging 40 inches, and display colorful scepters and long green leaves near my base
- I'm helpful for pollination, tend to attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and deer typically do not like me

How to Care for Me:

- Water deeply, once per week
- Remove my brown leaves in the spring
- Deadhead spent flower stalks to keep me looking nice
- Cover me with a 2 to 3-inch layer of mulch to support water retention and to protect my center crown during winter
- Plant during early spring or fall for best results

Come Meet Me in Person:

The Broomfield Xeriscape Demonstration Garden is located on the west end of the City & County Building parking lot located at 1 Descombes Drive in Broomfield. I'm located near the entry to the garden, on the left side of the path as you enter from the parking lot. This garden represents a fruitful collaboration between the City and County of Broomfield, Colorado State University Extension, and Plant Select.