

**Botanical name:**  
**Genus: Acalypha**  
**Species: hispida**

**Common Name(s):**  
Chenille plant, Cat tail

**Latin Family Name:**  
Euphorbiaceae  
**English Family Name:** Heath

Previously known as: Acalypha densiflora, Acalypha sanderi

**The plant**

**Origin; country or region:** Native to native to Hawaii, Oceania and tropical eastern Asia

**Growth habit:** A striking evergreen tropical shrub

**Flower description** (if applicable): Fuzzy and remarkable- long drooping pendant flurry crimson flowers with a long bloom season

**Blooming period/availability** (if applicable): Annual bedding plant

**Leaf/Foliage Description:** The foliage of the Chenille plant is unremarkable

**Usage :**

**STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:**

Attractive house plant, cultivated as a house plant because of its attractiveness and brilliantly colored, furry flowers

The flowers crimson accents can provide textural interest to a garden

Mostly trouble free

Grows well as an indoor plant or in a container, hanging basket, on a patio or rooftop garden

**WEAKNESS :** Mealybugs, scale, and red spider mites are occasional problems



The plant is named after the French word for "caterpillar." This plant is a member of the Euphorbiaceae family, which includes other ornamental varieties, like Poinsettia and the Croton

**Care & Handling**

**Longevity:** 2 years plus

**Water requirements:** Keep your plants consistently moist when the plant doesn't get enough water, the leaves start to droop

**Light:** As a house plant, it needs bright light but not direct sunlight

**Soil/Nutrition requirements:** Loose potting soil, rich in organic matter and sand

**Special care/remarks:** Wear gloves when caring for Chenille red hot cattails, as the sap may cause irritation. Though only mildly toxic, all parts of growing chenille plants are poisonous. Regular trimming of both foliage and flowers is part of caring for chenille red hot cattails as well. Remove spent blooms and leggy foliage for a continued display from your growing chenille plants

