

# WESTERN SPICE BUSH

## CALYCANTHUS OCCIDENTALIS



ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S LOVELIEST NATIVES, SPICEBUSH IS A LUSH, DECIDUOUS SHRUB THAT IS FOUND ALONG STREAMS AND RIVERS WHERE IT ADDS A NEAR-TROPICAL LOOK TO ITS SURROUNDINGS. THE LARGE DARK GREEN LEAVES, WHICH ARE WINE SCENTED, PROVIDE A FOIL FOR THE 2-4" RED FLOWERS, WHICH ARE WINE-COLORED. THE BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOMS, AT THE END OF EACH STEM, APPEAR SEEMINGLY CONTINUOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE SPRING AND SUMMER AND ARE FOLLOWED BY INTERESTING SEED CAPSULES. THESE WOODY CAPSULES REMAIN ON THE PLANT THROUGH THE WINTER, LOOKING LIKE SO MANY LITTLE OFFERING CUPS FOR THE BIRDS THAT LOVE THE SEEDS. GREAT FOR EROSION CONTROL NEAR CREEKS, WESTERN SPICEBUSH FORMS THICKETS, COVERING A BROADER EXPANSE WITH EACH YEAR.

PART SHADE TO SHADE

USDA ZONES 7-10

