

## Leonotis

Commonly called Lions Tail for its showy whorls of deep orange spikes that look like the end of the lions tail. The plant is grown beautifully in the Calaveras Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden, but it is listed as a tender perennial. Zones listed 8-24. It is a large shrub and puts on a stunning show summer into fall. Leonotis is actually a member of the mint family from Africa, so it's pretty tough and good with hotter dry areas. It's definitely worth giving a try.



**Size:** 4' – 6' tall and 4' wide. Grows bigger in warmer areas

**Exposure:** Full sun

**How to Plant:** Some say they have had good luck with seed, but I suggest buying at least a one gallon or larger plant.

**Pruning:** Keep trimmed to maintain shape.

**Water needs:** regular watering, but can take dry spells once established.

**Soil:** Ordinary well drained garden soil is best.

**Snapshot:** Leonotis is the perfect plant for the warmer, dryer regions of our counties. If you give it a try and live in a cooler area, don't fret, cut it to the ground in spring and see if it comes back. When it blooms it has showy, dense tubular flowers in a rich deep orange. The flowers have a velvety fur like texture that reflects the name Lion's Tail. The spikes are a bit prickly so it's best not to plant near a walkway. However, you will find that once established and in bloom it will make quite a statement in your garden. It also attracts bees and butterflies like crazy.

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