SEED OF THE MONTH PROGRAM

Common Name: Christmas Candle or Devil's Backbone

Scientific Name: Euphorbia tithymaloides

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Genus: Euphorbia

Species: E. thithymaloides

Subspecies: Euphorbiinae

Height:	Spacing:	Sun Exposure:
2 – 3 feet indoors 6 – feet outdoors	Depends on use	Full to partial sun

Bloom Color: Tiny red miniature bird-like flowers.

Bloom Time: Winter and summer blooms, 1 to 2 times a year (The one at Halawa Garden begins blooming in November).

Other Details: In ideal conditions the stem grows in a different direction each time it gets a new leaf, giving it a zig-zag effect. It also grows well indoors. Its white milky sap called latex can cause an irritation to your skin and special care should be taken to keep the sap away from your eyes, nose and mouth. Also the leaves take on a tinge of pink during the year right before blossoms appear. This extra pop of color is spectacular in your landscape or garden!

Soil Requirements: Well drained and enjoys a 3" layer of organic mulch.

Water Requirements: This plant will drop its leaves when it doesn't get enough water. For in-ground plants a good watering at ground, once a week is recommended. A good rule of thumb for In-pot planting is to water 2 times a week.

Propagation Methods: Cuttings are the best way to grow this plant. It is not a good idea to root these plants in water, they may rot before they root. Simply place the bottom tip of stem into some root growing hormone and plant it in a pot or ground. The leaves will fall off initially and when you see baby leave appear, it is a sign that it's rooting.

Known Uses: The plant is currently being evaluated as a source for controlling organisms that cause Tuberculosis and Malaria as well as a renewable fuel source. Medicinally it's being looked at for its anti inflammatory and antibacterial and antimicrobial properties.   In your landscape or garden this makes a beautiful accent near large lava rocks or plant them in a row to form a low hedge.