



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Ananas comosus* 'Variegatus'**<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

The 24 to 30-inch-long, stiff, bright green leaves have spiny tips and margins (Fig. 1). Leaves arise from a tight rosette. Pineapples are often planted for their tropical appearance and as a horticultural novelty. The fruit appears on top of a central stalk after a year or more.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Ananas comosus* 'Variegatus'

**Pronunciation:** uh-NAN-us ko-MO-sus

**Common name(s):** Variegated Pineapple

**Family:** Bromeliaceae

**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous

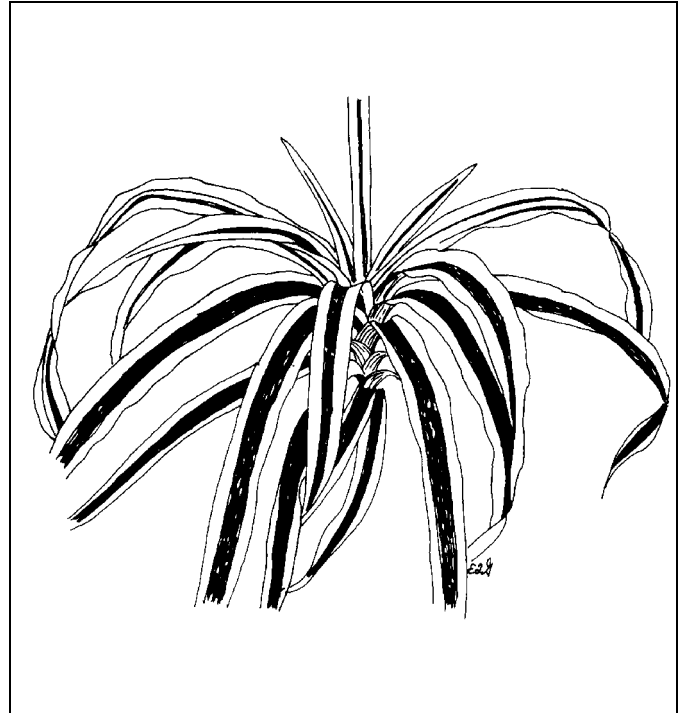
**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** ground cover; accent; specimen; border

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant



**Figure 1.** Variegated Pineapple.

### **Description**

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 5 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

#### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** spiny

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf blade length:** 18 to 36 inches

**Leaf color:** variegated

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** red

**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** 6 to 12 inches

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** green; yellow

**Fruit characteristic:** suited for human consumption; persists on the plant

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** usually with one stem/trunk

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

## Use and Management

Although the plants will tolerate full sun to fairly dark conditions inside, Pineapple is most attractive as an ornamental if given some protection from full sun. Well-drained soil is most suitable for best growth. They can be used as a specimen, or grouped as a groundcover in a mass planting. Plant on four-foot centers to allow plants room to spread their foliage. Do not plant in areas where children play because the spines can injure them if they contact the leaves.

The cultivar 'Variegatus' is grown for its striking variegated foliage and is quite popular.

Propagation is by dividing the suckers from the base of the parent plant and also by rooting the leafy top of a mature fruit.

Mites, scales, and mealy-bugs can be serious pest problems.

### Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.