



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## ***Anthurium andraeanum***<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

Growing best in low light conditions, Anthuriums are handsome exotics with shiny dark green, oblong, heart-shaped leaves (Fig. 1). The long-lasting, showy flower bracts come in shades of red, rose, pink, and white with a protruding pale yellow, tail-like flower spadix. The flower bracts have a puckered appearance and shine as though they were lacquered. Anthuriums will bloom more or less continuously, each plant having four to six flowers during the year. Each flower will last about six weeks on the plant or several weeks when cut and placed in a vase of water.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Anthurium andraeanum*

**Pronunciation:** an-THUR-ee-um an-dree-AY-num

**Common name(s):** Tailflower, Flamingo-Flower

**Family:** *Araceae*

**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous

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

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** specimen; container or above-ground planter; border; ground cover; cut flowers; accent; edging; suitable for growing indoors

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

### **Description**

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

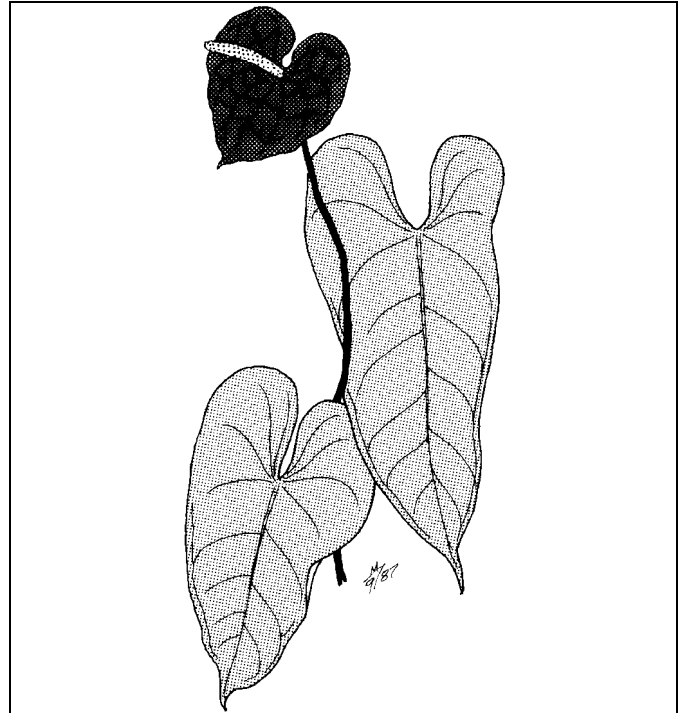


Figure 1. Tailflower.

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Plant habit:** upright  
**Plant density:** open  
**Growth rate:** slow  
**Texture:** coarse

### **Foliage**

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** revolute

**Leaf shape:** saggitate (arrow)

**Leaf venation:** brachidodrome; pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 8 to 12 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** pink; white; salmon

**Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** elongated

**Fruit length:** unknown

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** red

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**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 the shade

**Soil tolerances:** sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

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

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## **Use and Management**

Soils should be moist and high in organic matter, and relative humidity should remain high. Anthurium leaves lose their shiny texture and may die if humidity drops below 50 percent for more than a few days. For interior use, keep potted plants on trays of moist gravel or spray several times per day with water and protect from drafts. Single plants are best used in small gardens. In larger landscapes, a mass of many plants together looks best. Plant two to three feet apart to form a dense foliage effect.

Propagation is by division.

Mites, scales, mealy-bugs, and nematodes can be a problem.

### **Pests and Diseases**

No diseases are of major concern.