



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Dracaena deremensis¹

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Introduction

The upright, multiple, unbranched stems of *Dracaena*, with rosettes of arching, broad evergreen leaves, forms a heavy but graceful tropical clump, suitable for low-maintenance container culture or specimen planting in the shaded landscape (Fig. 1). Leaf color ranges from green to grey-green with various white-striped patterns available. The white striped and variegated cultivars can brighten a shaded yard or dark corner.

General Information

Scientific name: *Dracaena deremensis*

Pronunciation: druh-SEE-nuh dair-rem-MEN-sis

Common name(s): Dracaena

Family: *Agavaceae*

Plant type: shrub

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; suitable for growing indoors

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 8 to 12 feet

Spread: 2 to 5 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate



Figure 1. *Dracaena*.

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: spiral

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: undulate

Leaf shape: linear

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf venation: parallel
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 8 to 12 inches
Leaf color: variegated
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow
Flower characteristic: flowers periodically throughout the year

Fruit

Fruit shape: round
Fruit length: less than .5 inch
Fruit cover: fleshy
Fruit color: red
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: green

Current year stem/twig thickness: very thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; loam;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 24 to 36 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: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Dracaena looks best in shade and is tolerant of drought and a wide variety of soil types, though preferring an organic soil. Plant on one to two-foot centers in a mass planting. Shade tolerance makes this a good house plant.

The cultivar 'Warneckii' has a broad stripe along each margin and is commonly available.

Propagation is by tip cuttings.

Mites, thrips, and chewing insects are a problem.

Pests and Diseases

Dracaenas are sensitive to leaf spot diseases.