



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

***Ananas comosus* 'Smooth Cayenne'**¹

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Introduction

The 24 to 30-inch-long, stiff, bright green leaves of the species have spiny tips and margins (Fig. 1). Because this cultivar has no spines and variegated or striped leaves, it is well suited for planting in the landscape. Each leaf has a wide green band down the center with a band of yellow on either side. 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* 'Smooth Cayenne'

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

Common name(s): Spineless 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: accent; border; ground cover; mass planting

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

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 3 to 5 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: moderate

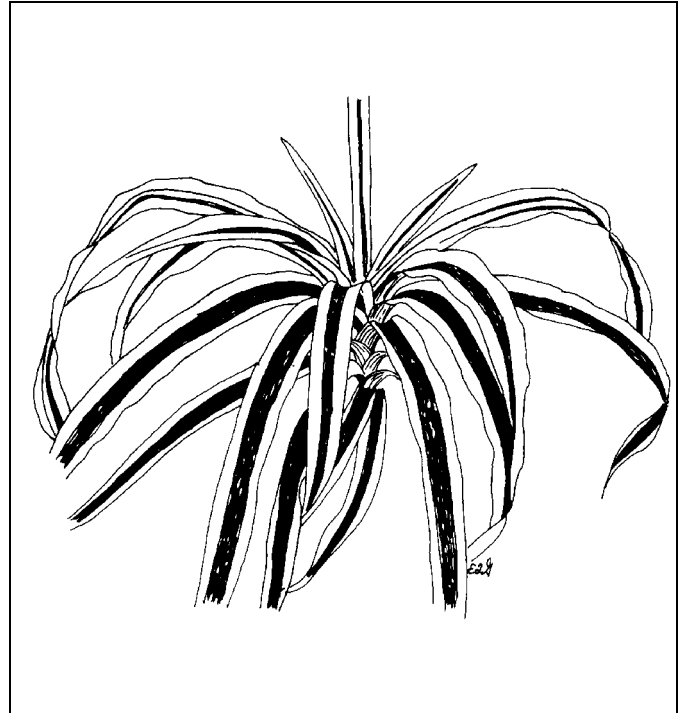


Figure 1. Spineless Pineapple.

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

Foliage

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

Leaf type: simple

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: parallel
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 18 to 36 inches
Leaf color: yellow
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 ground cover in a mass planting. Plant on 4-foot centers to allow plants room to spread their foliage. The spineless cultivars including 'Smooth Cayenne' are recommended for planting in residential and commercial landscapes as ornamentals.

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

None of major concern.