**Introduction**

A beautiful, upright grass-like herbaceous perennial related to the irises, Blackberry Lily has strap-like leaves to 18 inches long borne on short, upright stems no more than about 2 feet long (Fig. 1). Throughout the warm months, bright orange-yellow flowers are produced at the top of the canopy and fill the landscape with warm color. Individual flowers last a day or two but new ones come out the next day during the bloom period. Fruit pods split and curl, revealing clusters of black seeds, hence the common name. Plants die back in the winter months only to emerge again in the spring.

**General Information**

**Scientific name:** Belamcanda chinensis  
**Pronunciation:** bel-am-KAN-duh chin-NEN-sis  
**Common name(s):** Blackberry Lily, Leopard Flower  
**Family:** Iridaceae  
**Plant type:** perennial; bulb/tuber  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 10A (Fig. 2)  
**Planting month for zone 7:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 8:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 9:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** foundation; cut flowers; mass planting  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

**Description**

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Spread:** 2 to 4 feet  
**Plant habit:** upright  
**Plant density:** dense  
**Growth rate:** fast  
**Texture:** medium  

**Foliage**

---

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-64, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean
Belamcanda chinensis -- Blackberry Lily

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf arrangement: alternate
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: parallel
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: 12 to 18 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
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: sand; acidic; slightly alkaline; loam; clay;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other
Roots: not applicable
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

Leaf shape: pod or pod-like
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: black
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

October 1999
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Blackberry Lily makes an outstanding addition to any landscape. It makes a nice accent plant in a shrub border, and can stand alone in a low, ground-hugging ground cover. Plant it along a walk or in a mass near an entry way to attract attention. A large number of Blackberry Lilies massed in a landscape bed can make a dramatic impact on a landscape design.

Although flower production is best in full sun, one outstanding feature of the plant is its ability to produce abundant flowers in partial shade. Space adjacent plants about 3 feet apart to form a dense grouping. Several light fertilizations during the year will help growth and flowering.

A hybrid, x Pardancanda, usually called Candy Lily or Leopard Lily has yellow, purple, rose or white flowers.

Pests and Diseases

Crown rot can kill plants if the soil remains too wet. Scorch causes the upper parts of leaves to brown and wither in the summer in the full sun without adequate soil moisture supply.