



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Crinum spp.*¹

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Introduction

This large, coarse-textured, upright rosette of broad, light green, four-foot-long leaves is topped most of the year with great clusters of fragrant, spidery flowers (Fig. 1). A fine specimen plant, *Crinums* also make excellent underplantings for palms or other coarsely textured landscape plants. Plant four to six feet apart in a mass planting. Install a very low ground cover beneath and around individual plants or groupings to help “set-off” or display *Crinum Lily*. They accent any garden or landscape.

General Information

Scientific name: *Crinum spp.*

Pronunciation: KRYE-num species

Common name(s): *Crinum Lily*

Family: *Amaryllidaceae*

Plant type: bulb/tuber; perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 2)

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: mass planting; specimen; accent; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size)

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

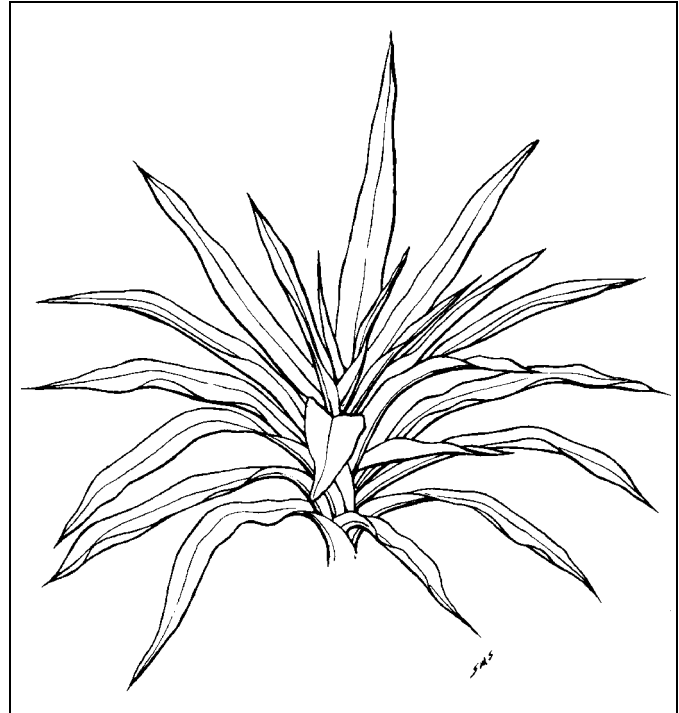


Figure 1. *Crinum Lily*.

Description

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 3 to 5 feet

Plant habit: spreading

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: coarse

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** spiral
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** linear
- Leaf venation:** parallel
- Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** more than 36 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

Flower

- Flower color:** white
- Flower characteristic:** year-round flowering; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** round
- Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- Fruit cover:** dry or hard
- Fruit color:** green

Fruit characteristic: showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; 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:** extended flooding; clay; sand; acidic; slightly alkaline; loam
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

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

Well-suited to hot, dry locations, Crinum Lilies grow from what are among the largest true bulbs, some weighing over 40-pounds. Forming large clumps, Crinums should have plenty of growing room in full or partial sun on well-drained soils, and are moderately salt-tolerant. Crinums recover quickly from killing frosts in USDA hardiness zones 8b and 9.

Species have blooms of white, pink, or rose, while others are striped with white and carmine, the so-called milk-and-wine lilies. Plants are available with maroon leaves at some nurseries. *Crinum* x *powelli* cultivar 'Cecil Houdyshel' has fragrant, rosy-pink flowers. *Crinum moorei*, with a rose-red flower, is available in the cultivar 'Album' with white flowers and 'Roseum' with pink flowers. *Crinum latifolium* var. *zeylanicum* is the milk-and-wine lily.

Crinums are best divided during the winter when not actively growing. The large clump is simply lifted and some of the offshoot bulbs removed.

Crinum is a very sturdy plant and is only occasionally bothered by caterpillars or other chewing insects.

Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern, but leaf spots could occur in moist shaded areas.



Figure 3. Foliage of Crinum Lily