Hedychium x ‘Shurei’¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

This cultivar provides a peach or apricot colored, fragrant flower emerging from one large bud in summer at the tip of each unbranched stem. Each flower lasts about one day. Several hundred flowers can appear from each bud during a 6-week period. Each stem grows to about 5-feet-tall. These herbaceous perennials spread by underground rhizomes, often forming dense clumps of multiple stems. Large, simple leaves are borne on either side of the thick green stems. Unfortunately, individual flowers do not last after they are cut from the plant.

General Information

Scientific name: Hedychium x ‘Shurei’
Pronunciation: hee-DICK-ee-un
Common name(s): ‘Shurei’ Ginger
Family: Zinziberaceae
Plant type: herbaceous
USDA hardiness zones: 8B through 11 (Fig. 1)
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: border; mass planting; suitable for growing indoors
Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

Description

Height: 4 to 5 feet
Spread: 2 to 6 feet

Plant habit: upright
Plant density: open
Growth rate: fast
Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: undulate
Leaf shape: lanceolate; oblong
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 8 to 12 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: orange
Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; spring flowering; summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: unknown
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Trunk/bark/branches:** 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 part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** occasionally wet; acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown  
**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 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:** aggressive, spreading plant  

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

**Use and Management**

Place this ginger near a walk or window so the fragrance and beautiful flower can be enjoyed. The foliage texture makes them nicely suited for creating an accent in a shrub border when it is not in flower.

Plants grown in full sun or partial shade flower best. Those in the shade often grow but few flower buds are produced. Rhizomes can be dug and divided for propagation.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases usually restrict use of this plant in Florida landscapes.

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