



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Hymenocallis latifolia*¹

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Introduction

Hymenocallis latifolia is a Florida native that is popular for its exceptional foliage and snow-white flowers (Fig. 1). This clumping, herbaceous perennial reaches a height of 2 to 3 feet. It has 3-foot-long, dark green, linear leaves that grow directly from an underground bulb. Numerous, white flowers appear above these attractive leaves in the summer and fall. The fragrant, long lasting flowers have a 6-inch-long flower tube with narrow, long, recurving sepals and petals. The upright filaments of these delicate flowers are connected by a gossamer web. Large, ovoid capsules that produce viable seeds appear on this plant after flowering has ceased.

General Information

Scientific name: *Hymenocallis latifolia*

Pronunciation: hye-men-oh-KAL-liss lat-tif-FOLE-ee-uh

Common name(s): Spider-Lily

Family: *Amaryllidaceae*

Plant type: bulb/tuber; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: mass planting; border; accent; edging

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 3 to 5 feet

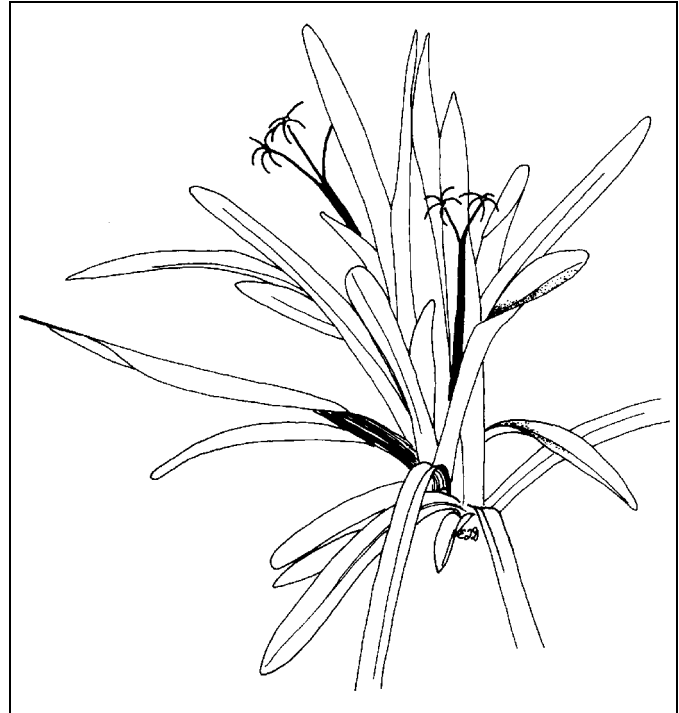


Figure 1. Spider-Lily.

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: basal rosette

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: parallel
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 18 to 36 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white
Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

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: well-drained; alkaline; sand; loam; clay
Drought tolerance: high
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

This fast growing plant creates a wonderful, tall ground cover that readily reseeds itself. A solid ground cover can form within 2 years after planting on 3 to 5-foot centers. It is also nicely suited for planting as a specimen in a small garden. Flowers and foliage both attract attention. This makes a nice addition to any landscape.

Plant in full sun or partial shade on well-drained, basic, sandy loam soils. The Spider Lily is very tolerant of drought and salt spray but will not endure cold temperatures. It is great for south Florida and will do well in coastal landscapes.

The Spider Lily is generally propagated by bulb divisions.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

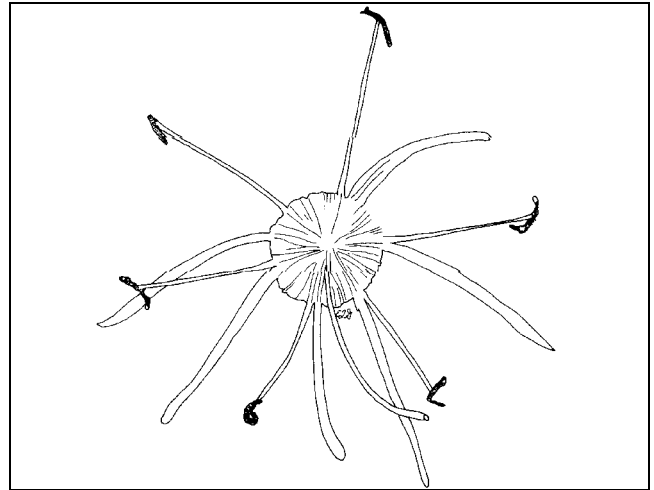


Figure 3. Flower of Spider-Lily