

Ananas comosus 'Smooth Cayenne' Spineless Pineapple¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

The 24- to 30-inch-long, stiff, bright green leaves of the species have spiny tips and margins (Figure 1). Because this cultivar has no spines and variegated or stripped 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 (Figure 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

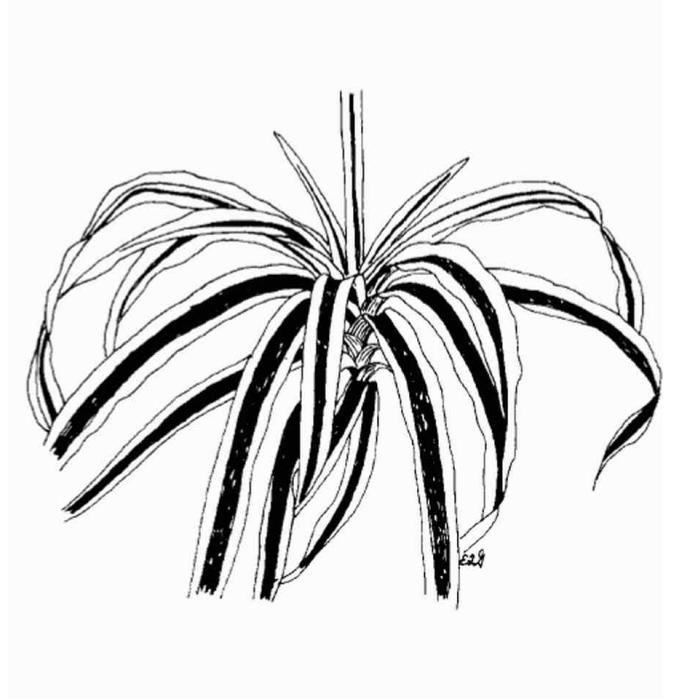


Figure 1. Spineless pineapple.

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

Foliage

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

1. This document is FPS040, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date September 1999. Revised May 2007. Reviewed June 2011. Visit the EDIS website 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.



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:** 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 tolerance:** 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.

Pests and Diseases

Mites, scales, and mealy-bugs can be serious pest problems.