

Hymenocallis latifolia Spider Lily¹

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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



Figure 1. Spider-Lily

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

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 3 to 5 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: moderate

Growth rate: fast

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: basal rosette

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

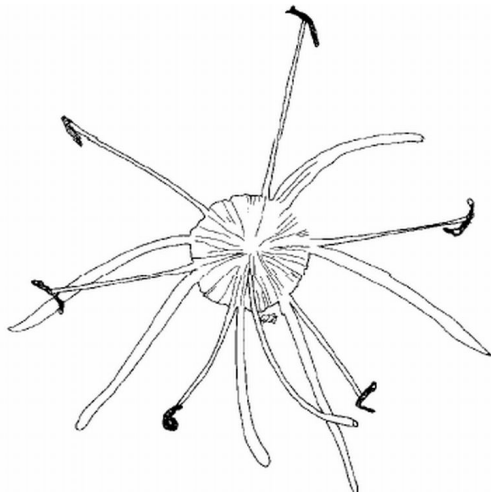


Figure 3. Flower of Spider-Lily

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.