

Zingiber zerumbet Pine Cone Lily, Pine Cone Ginger¹

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Introduction

The multiple stems with lush, ginger-like foliage appear in springtime, eventually forming large clumps and providing a tropical effect in the landscape (Fig. 1). Short, bracted inflorescences, resembling red pine cones, appear from the ground on 10-inch-tall stalks in autumn and are much favored for use in floral arrangements.

General Information

Scientific name: *Zingiber zerumbet*

Pronunciation: ZIN-jib-ber ZAIR-rum-bet

Common name(s): pine cone lily, pine cone ginger

Family: *Zingiberaceae*

Plant type: herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 9 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

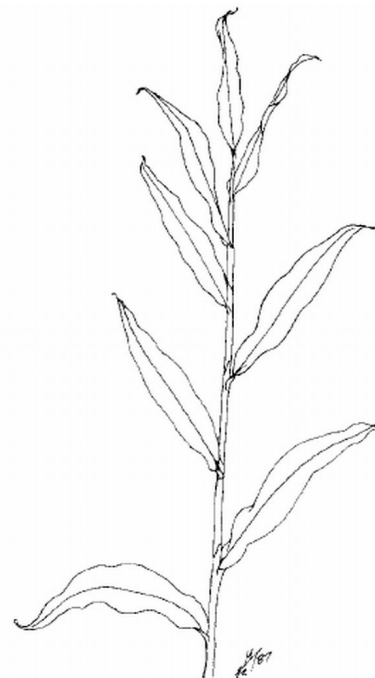


Figure 1. Pine cone lily.

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: specimen; container or above-ground planter; border; naturalizing; accent

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 4 to 7 feet

Spread: 4 to 6 feet

Plant habit: upright; spreading

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: lanceolate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: semi-evergreen

Leaf blade length: 8 to 12 inches

Leaf color: variegated

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: red

Flower characteristic: summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown

Fruit length: unknown

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: red

Fruit characteristic: persists on the plant

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: green

Pests and Diseases

Current year stem/twig thickness: very thick

No diseases are of major concern.

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

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: not known to be invasive

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

Use and Management

Pine cone lily grows best on fertile, moist soil in full sun or partial shade. Plants are moderately salt-tolerant.

The cultivar 'Darceyi' has glistening, green and white foliage.

Plants are propagated by division of the matted clumps.

Mites are the only pest problem of note.