**Ananas comosus Pineapple**¹
Edward F. Gilman²

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**Introduction**

The 24 to 30-inch-long, stiff, bright green leaves have spiny tips and margins (Figure 1). 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.

![Figure 1. Pineapple.](image)

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** Ananas comosus
- **Pronunciation:** uh-NAN-us ko-MO-sus
- **Common name(s):** 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:** specimen; fruit; ground cover; border; accent; culinary
- **Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

![Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.](image)

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**Description**

Height: 1 to 3 feet  
Spread: 3 to 5 feet  
Plant habit: round  
Plant density: moderate  
Growth rate: slow  
Texture: medium

**Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: spiny  
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: red  
Flower characteristic: summer flowering

**Fruit**

Fruit shape: oval  
Fruit length: 6 to 12 inches  
Fruit cover: fleshy  
Fruit color: yellow; brown  
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: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam  
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 plant 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. The plant can be used as a specimen, or grouped as a groundcover in a mass planting. Plant on four foot centers to allow plants room to spread their foliage. Do not plant in areas where children play because the spines can injure them if they contact the leaves.

The cultivar ‘Variegatus’ is grown for its striking variegated foliage and is quite popular.

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.

No diseases are of major concern.