

# *Eucharis amazonica* Amazon Lily, Eucharist Lily<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

Amazon lily forms tight, compact rosettes of deep green, glossy leaves up to several inches wide and tall spikes of fragrant, long-lasting, waxy, white flowers (Fig. 1). They make nice container plants for a shaded deck or patio or can be planted among other small plants in a rock garden. They have also been used as a groundcover planted two to three feet apart.



Figure 1. Amazon lily.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Eucharis amazonica*

**Pronunciation:** YOO-kuh-riss am-uh-ZOE-nick-uh

**Common name(s):** Amazon lily, Eucharist lily

**Family:** *Amaryllidaceae*

**Plant type:** bulb/tuber; perennial; herbaceous

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

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** ground cover; accent

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



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** spreading; upright

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** coarse

## Foliage

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

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

1. This document is FPS198, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date September 1999. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

**Leaf shape:** ovate  
**Leaf venation:** parallel  
**Leaf type and persistence:** semi-evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** 8 to 12 inches; 12 to 18 inches; 18 to 36 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** winter flowering; spring flowering; showy; pleasant fragrance



Figure 3. Flower of Amazon lily.

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** unknown  
**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch  
**Fruit cover:** dry or hard  
**Fruit color:** unknown  
**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade  
**Soil tolerances:** occasionally wet; acidic; sand; loam; clay  
**Soil salt tolerances:** poor  
**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers  
**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

Native to the Andes of Columbia and Peru—not the Amazon—Amazon lily requires shade for its tender leaves and looks best when grown in rich, moist organic matter. Amazon lily should be kept on the dry side during the winter to stimulate flowering. Amazon lily can remain undisturbed for many years, blooming better under crowded conditions, whether in a pot or in large, outdoor clumps.

Propagation is by division.

## Pest and Diseases

Problems include caterpillars, spider mites, and bulb mites.

Amazon lily is occasionally bothered by viruses and bulb rot.