

# *Dracaena fragrans* 'Massangeana' Corn Plant, Fragrant Dracaena<sup>1</sup>

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## Trunk and Branches

### Introduction

The upright, multiple, unbranched stems of corn plant, with rosettes of arching, broad evergreen leaves have a wide, central yellow stripe, and form a heavy but graceful tropical clump, suitable for low-maintenance container culture or specimen planting. Mass plant on two-foot centers for a coarse textured, clumping effect. Extremely fragrant flowers are occasionally produced and open during the night.



Figure 1. Full Form - *Dracaena fragrans* 'Massangeana': Corn Plant, Fragrant Dracaena

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Figure 2. Leaf - *Dracaena fragrans* 'Massangeana': Corn Plant, Fragrant Dracaena

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Figure 3. Bark - *Dracaena fragrans* 'Massangeana': Corn Plant, Fragrant Dracaena

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## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Dracaena fragrans* 'Massangeana'

**Pronunciation:** druh-SEE-nuh FRAY-granz

**Common name(s):** corn plant, fragrant dracaena

**Family:** *Agavaceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Figure 4)

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Uses:** mass planting; specimen; container or above-ground planter; suitable for growing indoors; accent

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 4. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** 5 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** coarse

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** spiral

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** fragrant

**Leaf blade length:** 18 to 36 inches

**Leaf color:** variegated

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance; flowers periodically throughout the year

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk/bark/branches:** showy; can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; acidic; slightly alkaline; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

## Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

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

## Use and Management

Corn plant requires shade and is tolerant of drought and a wide variety of soil types, though preferring an organic soil. Do not overwater as root rot can cause plant death. The cane of the corn plant is usually cut into various lengths and rooted into a container in the nursery. Two to several stems grow from the top of the cane cutting, creating a multiple head of foliage. Individual leaves can last several years on the corn plant.

Propagation is by tip cuttings.

## Pests and Diseases

Mites, thrips, and chewing insects are a problem.

Corn plants are sensitive to leaf spot diseases and root rot.