

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

Edward F. Gilman, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen<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. 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. Full Form - *Eucharis amazonica*: Amazon Lily, Eucharist Lily Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS



Figure 2. Flower - *Eucharis amazonica*: Amazon Lily, Eucharist Lily Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## **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 (Figure 3)

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Andra Johnson, dean for UF/IFAS Extension.

Origin: not native to North America

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

**Uses:** ground cover; accent

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

region to find the plant

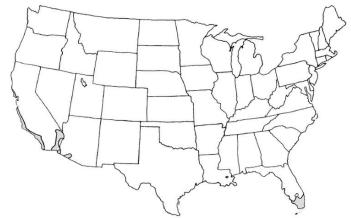


Figure 3. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

# **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

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

#### **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

**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.