

Lakeshore Garden Centres

4102 - 11th St. West
P.O. Box 2A RR3
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3J6
phone: 306-382-2077

info@lakeshoregardencentre.com
www.lakeshoregardencentre.com

Red Ginger Lily



Red Ginger Lily *Hedychium rubrum*

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Red Butterfly Ginger



Red Ginger Lily
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

This fine selection produces wide green leaves with an interesting ribbed texture; elegant, red-orange blooms with deep red bracts in late summer; great in containers, or massed along borders; benefits from some shelter and rich soil

Ornamental Features

Red Ginger Lily features showy spikes of lightly-scented red orchid-like flowers with orange overtones and dark red bracts rising above the foliage from late summer to early fall. Its attractive textured oval leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Red Ginger Lily is an herbaceous annual with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Ginger Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Red Ginger Lily will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Red Ginger Lily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.