



Torchlily
Kniphofia natalensis

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Red-hot Poker, Flame Flower, Tritoma

Description:

Amazing orange blooms that fade to pale yellow, on tall stalks, rise from grassy, evergreen foliage from mid to late summer; a larger variety, creating an impressive border or container planting; makes a great cutflower and attracts hummingbirds

Ornamental Features

Torchlily features bold spikes of orange tubular flowers with buttery yellow overtones at the ends of the stems from mid to late summer, which emerge from distinctive green flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its grassy leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Torchlily is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Torchlily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Torchlily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Torchlily in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Torchlily will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Torchlily 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.