Anthurium

Anthurium andraeanum



Anthurium flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Tail Flower, Flamingo Flower

Description:

An exciting tropical plant producing bright, glossy red heart shaped spathes that last for several weeks; each with a spadix that matures to yellow, covered in tiny flowers; large, dark green leathery leaves are great contrast; great for containers



Anthurium flowers
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Ornamental Features

Anthurium features unusual spikes of red heart-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its large glossy heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Anthurium is an open herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Anthurium is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Anthurium will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this 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 partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division.

Anthurium is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.