White Butterfly Ginger Lily

Hedychium coronarium

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: White Ginger Lily, White Garland Lily

Description:

This fine selection produces lance-shaped, medium green leaves; elegant, fragrant white blooms resembling butterflies in late summer to early fall; great as a container plant, or massed along borders; benefits from some shelter and rich soil

Ornamental Features

White Butterfly Ginger Lily features showy racemes of fragrant white orchid-like flowers rising above the foliage from late summer to early fall. Its attractive recurved sword-like leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

White Butterfly Ginger Lily is an herbaceous perennial 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.

White Butterfly Ginger Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;



White Butterfly Ginger Lily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



White Butterfly Ginger Lily
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

8546 Sun Valley Road
Anytown, USA 12345
204.782.4147

www.netpsplantfinder.com
sales@northscaping.com

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White Butterfly Ginger Lily
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

White Butterfly Ginger Lily will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. 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.

White Butterfly 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.