Dainty Ginger Lily

Hedychium gracile

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Dwarf Ginger Lily, Garland Lily

Description:

This small selection produces lance-shaped, medium green leaves; dainty spikes of tiny, star-like white flowers with long red stamens, in late summer to early fall; great in containers, or massed along borders; benefits from some shelter and rich soil

Ornamental Features

Dainty Ginger Lily features showy spikes of fragrant white star-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from late summer to early fall. Its attractive recurved sword-like leaves remain green in color with pointy creamy white spines throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Dainty 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.

Dainty Ginger Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Dainty Ginger Lily
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Dainty Ginger Lily stems
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Dainty Ginger Lily will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. 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. 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.

Dainty 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.