



Spider Lily

Hymenocallis acutifolia

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: *Hymenocallis littoralis* var. *acutifolia*

Description:

This exotic variety produces spectacular white flowers that are noteworthy both for their intricate design and fragrance; blooms resemble spidery daffodils with 6 narrow petals and a large cup; a unique, unusual selection for the garden or container

Ornamental Features

Spider Lily features showy spikes of fragrant white spider-like flowers rising above the foliage from late summer to early fall. Its glossy sword-like leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Spider 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Spider Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Spider Lily flowers
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Spider Lily will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 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 prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. 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 multiplication of the underground bulbs.

Spider 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.