



Cardinal Cordyline

Cordyline 'Cardinal'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: False Dracaena

Description:

Young leaves on this variety begin dark red, then mature to deep burgundy with a purple cast; spectacular when massed on the landscape; perfect for adding a lush, tropical feel to the garden or indoors

Ornamental Features

Cardinal Cordyline is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has attractive burgundy evergreen foliage which emerges dark red in spring. The sword-like leaves are highly ornamental and remain burgundy throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Cardinal Cordyline is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cardinal Cordyline is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Cardinal Cordyline will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.



Cardinal Cordyline
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Cardinal Cordyline makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.