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SPECIES	Alpinia zerumbet
COMMON NAME	Shell Ginger
ORIGIN	Southeast Asia
DESIGN USE	Background foliage and foliage colour contrast



HEIGHT

1.2–2.5m, variegated form remains smaller

SPREAD

1.5–3m

HABIT

Tightly clumped ginger.



FORM

A vase shaped clumping ginger.

FLOWERS

Pendant racemes of pearly white buds blushed with pink, open to reveal red and yellow petals.

FLOWERING PERIOD

Spring



VARIATIONS

“Waimailo” or “Variegata” (leaves heavily striped in yellow, less noticeable flowers)

“Variegata Dwarf” (grows only to about 0.3 m tall)

“Variegata Chinese Beauty” (light green and dark green marbled foliage)

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

This Alpinia is root hardy to Zone 8, but it only flowers on old growth, so the flowers rarely will be seen except in frost-free areas.

HORTICULTURE

Tolerates dense shade and root competition, but also takes full sun in humid climates. In arid areas, provide oasis conditions: ample water, humid rich soil, part shade and shelter from hot drying winds. This plant usually has few pest problems but the leaves will brown on the edges if the soil is not kept moist or if touched by frost.



REFERENCES

http://www.floridata.com/ref/A/alpi_zer_var.cfm

<http://www.plantoftheweek.org/week064.shtml>

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