

SPECIES	Aspidistra elatior
COMMON NAME	'Cast-iron plant' or iron plant
ORIGIN	China and Japan
DESIGN USE	Foliage plant, houseplant, porch and patio plant, for shaded areas



HEIGHT

1m

SPREAD

1m

HABIT

Rhizomatous perennial

FLOWERS

Borne close to the ground and never even seen unless one deliberately searches for them; produces purple-brown small flowers near the base of the plant.



FLOWERING PERIOD

Spring

FORM

Spread in clumps, vigorously but at a moderate enough rate not to be invasive or even troublesome

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

Grows well in fertile soil. It can stand hard, poor soils, but not soggy conditions and not too much sun. Grow in a dry to moist, but well drained soil. Tolerate dust as well as heat, cold, wet soil, drought, neglect and dimly lighted places. Tolerate temperatures as low as 28 degrees without injury to the foliage. Tolerate light levels as low as 10 foot candles Make a great addition to cut flower arrangements; the foliage often lasts for weeks.



HORTICULTURE

They're grown for their ability to survive neglect and very shady conditions, indoors and out; Fertilize during period of active growth for best appearance, but aspidistra thrives on neglect. Propagate by division of clumps at any time of year, but it's best to do it in the spring. Transplant the divisions a little deeper than originally growing



REFERENCES

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspidistra#Species>
- <http://www.plant-care.com/aspidistra-elatior-cast-iron-plant.html>
- http://www.floridata.com/ref/a/aspi_ela.cfm
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspidistra_elatior