

SPECIES

Doryanthes excelsa

COMMON NAME

Giant lily, Flame lily, Spear lily, Illawarra lily, Gymea lily

ORIGIN

Coastal areas of New South Wales near Sydney

DESIGN USE

For large rockeries and gardens and as an interesting foliage plant



HEIGHT

Up to 1m with flowers reaching up to 3 to 5 meters.

SPREAD

1–2m

HABIT

A clumping, tussock-like species consisting of long, lance-shaped leaves about 150 cm long by about 10 cm wide. The leaves are bright green in colour. Each plant grows from a thickened underground stem which is gradually pulled deeper and deeper into the ground by the roots contracting during periods of dry weather.

FLOWERS

The red, trumpet-like flowers each 100 mm across are borne in a compact terminal head 300 mm in diameter on a leafy flowering stem 2-4 m high.

FLOWERING PERIOD

October to November

FLOWERS

The plant forms a large clump with numerous sword-like fibrous leaves, to 1 m in length and up to 100 mm wide.

FRUIT

The fruit is a woody capsule which splits open on ripening in January or February to release the brown, flattened and slightly winged seeds.

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

Grows on exposed rocky outcrops in wet sclerophyll forest and on coastal ranges. Flower spikes may be damaged by frost but the foliage usually escapes injury.

HORTICULTURE

It must be sited with care in a well-drained, deep soil. The plant needs to be kept well watered. Propagation is by division of established plants or from seed.

REFERENCES

<http://asgap.org.au/d-exc.html>

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/gnp12/doryanthes-excelsa.html>