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SPECIES

Hymenocallis littoralis

COMMON NAME

Spider Lily

ORIGIN

Mexico and Central America

DESIGN USE

As a border plant, as a ground cover or as mass planting.



HEIGHT

Up to 1m

SPREAD

Up to 0.5m per bulb

HABIT

All the leaves arise from the base of the plant in two opposing ranks, resulting in a fanlike appearance which becomes obscured as the clump enlarges.

FORM

The tepals are adnate (attached to) the staminal cup. The flower tube is 14 to 17 cm (5½ to 7 inches) long or longer.

FLOWERS

A leafless stalk, called a scape, extends above the leaves and bears the flowers. The flower look like daffodils except for the delicate spider-like petals. The flowers are white.

FLOWERING PERIOD

Mid-summer

VARIATIONS

- H. acutifolia* (has narrow foliage)
- H. caribea* var. (attractive grayish green foliage with wide creamy white margins)
- H. eucharidifolia* (its strap shaped leaves are glaucous, and its flower has a small scented corona which lasts only one night)
- H. occidentalis* (leaves may be absent, or present at bloom time)

CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

Does best in full sun but will tolerate light shade. Spider lily grows well in normal room temperatures for most of the year, but needs a three-months rest period. The plant also needs high humidity.

HORTICULTURE

The plant is easy to grow in fertile, well-drained with neutral to slightly acidic soil. It needs abundant watering.

REFERENCES

<http://www.greenpatio.com/plantdatabase/spider-lily.shtml>

<http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Hymenocallis>