

SPECIES	Strelitzia regina ‘Mandela gold’
COMMON NAME	Mandela’s gold Strelitzia, Yellow Crane Flower, Yellow Bird of Paradise
ORIGIN	Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, in South Africa
DESIGN USE	Feature plant that for tropical concept around courtyards and pool areas



HEIGHT

1.2–1.8m

SPREAD

1.8–2.4m

HABIT

An evergreen clump-forming perennial.

FORM

A stemless, evergreen, clump-forming perennial with greyish green, banana-like leaves.



FLOWERS

The hard, beak-like sheath from which the flower emerges, is called the spathe. This is held at right angles to the stem, and has the appearance of a bird’s head. Each spathe contains 4 to 6 flowers, and these emerge one at a time from the spathe. Each flower consists of 3 clear yellow sepals and 3 deep purple petals. The yellow sepals give the appearance of a crest on the ‘bird’s’ head. Two of the purple petals are joined together around the stamens and the style to form an arrow-like structure. The third purple petal is visible as a small scale.

FLOWERING PERIOD

Late winter and early spring



CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

They are tolerant of wind and coastal conditions but is sensitive to cold and needs a sheltered position against a north- or west-facing wall in areas that experience frost, and is not suitable for permanent outdoor cultivation in regions that experience a winter low of -7 to -1 °C / 30 to 40 °F (zone 9) or lower..

HORTICULTURE

Ideal conditions are full sun, rich, well-drained loam soil with a pH of approximately 7.5, regular deep watering in summer and liberal applications of fertilizer in early summer. In cold climates it can be grown in a sunny or brightly-lit conservatory.



REFERENCES

<http://www.plantzafrica.com/plantqrs/strelitregmandelagold.htm>