



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Spider Lily *Hymenocallis clivorum*

DESCRIPTION: This lovely flowering plant is related to Amaryllis, a popular spring bulb. This Spider Lily, like its more common cousin *Hymenocallis sonorensis* is found along streams and boggy areas in Sonora, Mexico where it occurs in colonies. It differs in having a tighter crown of leaves which are narrower and lighter green. In warm weather it produces delicate flowers. They are white and open in the early morning, but drop in the later, hotter hours. The large fleshy fruit persist into the fall and germinate readily in moist areas. In the wild it is one of the first plants to come into leaf and bloom with the summer rains. In cultivation it stays in leaf throughout most of the year.

RECOMMENDED USE: Lush, tropical look and beautiful flowers make it a great plant for a mini-oasis. It has a classic “pond plant” appearance. Use along banks of a pond, stream or water feature. Easily kept in a partially submerged container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Some frost damage at 28°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to full shade.



Growing conditions: It can be used as an aquatic to a terrestrial plant in a high-water use area, preferring rich, loose soil. Plant on margins of stream or pond, or in the shallows under few inches of water (see the Aquatic Plants information page; microhabitats #1, #2, and #3). Fertilization is not necessary and will encourage algae to grow in the water.



Pruning: Old and frost damaged leaves can be pruned in the spring. Bulbs can be divided any time. Spider Lily is not particularly aggressive, but spreads from seed fairly readily.