

PineCone Ginger / Awapuhi Kauhiwi



Description

Zingiber zerumbet grows to about 7 ft (2.1 m) tall with long narrow leaves arranged oppositely along the stem. In mid to late summer, separate stalks grow out of the ground with green cone-shaped bracts that resemble pinecones. The green cone turns red over a couple of weeks and then small creamy yellow flowers appear on the cone. In some locales this plant is known as the "pinecone ginger", but it is most widely known as the "shampoo ginger" for the creamy liquid substance in the cones.

Culture

The Pinecone Ginger is an easy-to-grow pass-along plant that will make a large clump from a single rhizome in a couple of years. It grows easily, provided sufficient moisture and fertile, organic soil.

Light: Full sun to partial shade

Moisture: Regular moisture, drought tolerant, but grows best with regular waterings.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 8 - 11. It is reliably hardy in zone 8 and higher, but has been reported to be root hardy in zone 7B as well. In colder zones, dig your rhizomes up and store as you would a tender bulb in a cool, dry place over winter and replant in the spring.

Propagation: Propagate by division of clumps or pieces of the rhizome.

Usage: *Zingiber zerumbet* is a plant of many uses. It makes an excellent fast-growing landscape plant for tropical effect, and the cone shaped flowers are long lasting and useful for cut flower arrangements. This plant is most widely known around the world as the "Shampoo Ginger" for the milky substance in the cones, and it is in fact used as a shampoo in Asia and Hawaii, and as an ingredient in several commercial shampoos.



Planting Instructions:

The rhizome should be planted so the top is about 4 inches deep in well draining soil. Plant so that the small roots coming off the rhizomes are **DOWN** and the cup-like indentions in the rhizomes where the stems sprout are **UP**, as shown in the photo. Allow about a 15" diameter for each rhizome so they have room for growth. Do not over water, these have average water needs and are drought tolerant. If you receive your rhizomes during the winter, store in a cool dry place and plant in the spring after danger of freezing has passed or you may plant in a container keep in a greenhouse or other warm, bright area and plant out in the garden in spring. Be sure to not over water and

use well draining soil when planting in a container. Allow top inch of soil to dry between waterings.