

Shell Flower Ginger, *Alpinia Zerumbet*

Description

This ginger can be grown as a house plant or can be planted in your landscape in a shady or partly sunny part of the yard. With its emerald green leaves reaching 9'-10' tall, this is certainly one of the most dramatic Gingers for impact in your house or landscape. Excellent in containers or your shady to partly sunny tropical landscape, shell gingers bloom in mid to late summer with fragrant shell-like flowers. The unopened flowers look like strands of threaded pink seashells. When they are open, they seem to contain tiny orchids with yellow and orange markings. A wonderful addition to any ginger collection!

Culture

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: Part sun to full 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 warmer. 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 or grow as a container plant, bringing the container inside during the winter.

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

Planting Instructions:



The rhizome should be planted so the TOP of the rhizome is about 3 inches deep in well draining soil. Plant so that the small roots coming off the rhizomes are **DOWN, see photos**. Some rhizomes may have a cut stem on them (see photo to the left), of course, the stem would go up and above the soil line. Allow about a 15" diameter for each rhizome so they have room for growth. If planting in containers, use AT LEAST a 1 gallon size container. Keep in mind that they will grow tall so make sure you have enough weight in the container to keep it from becoming top heavy and falling over.

Do not over water, these have average water needs and are drought tolerant. If

you receive your rhizomes during the winter and you are in a zone where these are not hardy, 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.



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