

# ***White Grand Spider Lily / Giant Crinum / Crinum asiaticum***

## **PLANTS**

### **Description**

This crinum lily makes an imposing presence in the garden. Dark green strap-like leaves may be more than 3 feet long by 4 inches wide. These are held erect and arranged in a spiral rosette to form impressive clumps up to 5 feet in height by 7 feet in width. The leaves emerge from huge bulbs that may weigh ten to twenty pounds! Flowers are shaped like tubes that flair open into a crown of narrow petals. The flowers are white and are arranged in clusters atop thick, succulent stems. This crinum is native to tropical areas of Asia. It is now a favorite landscape plant in Florida, the gulf coast, California and other warm climate areas. Their drought resistance makes them useful in xeriscapes. Also does well in containers. If growing in containers, allow soil to dry between waterings – use a well draining, sandy soil mixture. Too much water will rot the bulbs. Repot as necessary to keep the lily's growing vigorously.

Prefers bright sunny situations but will grow in shade. Provide average water. Does well in dry soils and is drought tolerant. **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 9 - 11. You can grow this crinum in Zone 8, but foliage is killed by freezing winter temperatures.

**Propagation:** To propagate crinums, dig up a clump and separate the small offset bulbs from the parent bulb. Plant these in pots or directly in the garden where they will quickly root to form new plants. You may also plant the bulbils that form after the flowers. These are easy to grow and they do grow fast.

**Planting instructions:** Plant in well draining, sandy soil. Do not over water. If any of the plants have the seed still attached (as in the photo), the seed should go down in the soil so you can just see the top of it above the soil line. Plant deep enough to cover all roots, even if it means planting the seed deeper than the soil line. Allow soil to dry, or nearly dry, between waterings. Keep in a shady spot until they recover from the transplant and the trip; then may be moved into more full sun, if desired. I think they do better in part or filtered shade when they are small; they are easily transplanted and can be moved into more sun when they are larger. (In nature, these would fall under the main plant and grow in the shade when small.)



As always, email me with questions.

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