African Night Pineapple Lily

Eucomis 'African Night'

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Spacing: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

This tropical looking selection produces rosettes of deep burgundy new foliage that matures to green; burgundy spikes of attractive rosy pink flowers rise up in late summer; winter protection recommended in colder zones

Ornamental Features

African Night Pineapple Lily features bold spikes of lightly-scented rose star-shaped flowers with pink overtones rising above the foliage from late summer to early fall. Its attractive sword-like leaves emerge burgundy in spring, turning forest green in color with showy dark red variegation and tinges of black throughout the season. The burgundy stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

African Night Pineapple Lily is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

African Night Pineapple Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;



African Night Pineapple Lily flower buds
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



African Night Pineapple Lily
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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African Night Pineapple Lily in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

African Night Pineapple Lily will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 3 feet apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

African Night Pineapple Lily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.