

Blackberry Lily *Belamcanda chinensis*

Plant Description:

This flowering, semi-evergreen perennial performs well in North Florida. Sometimes called leopard-lily because of the spotted flowers, the blackberry-lily is really named after the inedible fruit that resembles a blackberry. It makes an outstanding addition to any landscape, making a nice accent plant, stand-alone perennial, or eye-catching focal point when mass planted. A member of the Iris family, the blackberry-lily is a colorful and durable perennial that needs to be planted in more of our local landscapes.

Mature Size: 1-3 feet tall;
2-4 feet wide

Growth Rate: Fast

Plant Habit: Upright

Plant Spacing: 3-5 feet



Ornamental Characteristics & Uses:

Foliage Color: Light Green

Flower Color: Orange (spotted) or Yellow

Bloom Time: Spring-Fall (year-round in S. Florida)

Attracts Wildlife: Butterflies & Hummingbirds

Uses: Landscapes, Mass Planting, Containers, Cut Flowers



Growing Requirements:

Cold Hardiness Zone(s): 5-10a

Exposure: Full Sun or Partial Shade

Water Needs: Low to Moderate

Soil Tolerances: Moderately drought tolerant; requires well-drained soils

Soil pH: Slightly acid to slightly alkaline

Maintenance: Easy/Low

General Care & Growing Tips:

Flower production is best in full sun, although this plant also has the ability to produce abundant flowers in partial shade. In full sun, leaves are susceptible to scorch if soil moisture is inadequate, causing leaves to brown and wither in the summer sun. Several light fertilizations during the year will help growth and flowering.



Common Pests:

Prone to crown rot if soil conditions are kept too wet.

Reference: Gilman, Edward. (1999). *Belamcanda chinensis* Blackberry Lily. University of Florida. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp064>

Photo Credit: Alicia Lamborn

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