

White Rainlily

Zephyranthes candida

Fairy lily or white zephyrlily is native to Argentina and Uruguay, where it is found along rivers and in marshes. This rainlily rapidly forms thick clumps of dark-green, upright, rush-like leaves up to 10 inches tall. In the late summer and fall throughout north Florida and the rest of the southeastern United States fairy lily produces 1 to 2 inch, white, crocus-like flowers. This rainlily—evergreen even in north Florida—is often seen naturalized along roadsides and in ditches. Rainlily is one of the easiest bulbs to grow in Florida. When planted in an appropriate site, rainlily needs little care after planting. Like other bulbs, rainlily adapts to drought and other harsh conditions by going dormant.

Type: herbaceous perennial bulb

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11

Uses: border; mass planting; accent; attracts butterflies; suitable for growing indoors

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 10 to 12 inches **Spread:** 10 to 12 inches

Plant spacing: 12 to 36 inches

Light requirement: full sun to part shade

Soil tolerances: slightly acid; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerance: low to none

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests or diseases are normally seen on the plant

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Photo: Gary Knox, UF/IFAS