

Butterfly Ginger

Hedychium coronarium

The butterfly ginger is one of the nicest gingers for the home landscape because its fragrance is so enjoyable. Pure white, showy flowers emerge from one large bud in late spring through summer at the tip of each unbranched stem. Each flower lasts about one day. Several hundred flowers can appear from each bud during a 6-week period. Unfortunately, individual flowers do not last after they are cut from the plant. The foliage texture makes them nicely suited for creating an accent in a shrub border when it is not in flower. Plants that are grown in full sun or partial shade will flower best. Those in the shade often grow but few flower buds are produced. Butterfly gingers perform best when planted in rich, organic soil. This tropical perennial will die to the ground in North Florida but will reemerge in the spring.

Type: tropical perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 8b through 11

Uses: border; mass planting; suitable for indoors

Origin: not native to North America Florida

Height: 4 to 5 feet **Spread:** 4 to 6 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: part shade to part sun

Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Invasive potential aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

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Photo: UF/IFAS