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

Photo: UF/IFAS

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