

Heliconia rostrata

(Lobster-Claw)

Lobster-claw is a tropical, perennial herbaceous grown for its spectacular, pendulous flowers. It's native to the Amazon region of South America from Columbia to Peru. It has leathery, dark green leaves borne on petioles arising from the ground. The waxy flowers are produced on hanging stalks and these appear between the petiole and leaf blade in late spring. People mistake the colorful part of the leaf that is generally crimson red edged with yellow and green (modified leaf) with the flower but the true flowers are white to yellow and held within the bracts.

This unique plant is used as a specimen for tropical gardens. The inflorescence may be cut for indoor decoration where they last for several weeks.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Heliconia rostré, Pince de homard

Pronunciation: hel-lick-KOE-nee-uh ros-STRAY-tuh

Plant Type: Groundcover

Origin: Amazon region

Heat Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Hedge, Border Plant, Indoor, Container, Cut Flowers / Arrangements

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Coarse

Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m, 3 to 5 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 5 to 10 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Over 80 cm

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Glossy, Coarse

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 10 - 20

Flower Type: Raceme

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Green, Yellow, Orange, Red, Pink

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Suspected to breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Blue

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: No

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: High, Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: Less than 25

Edible Parts: None

Pests: Nematodes, Scales

Plant Propagations: Division, Rhizomes

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Other Image