

## 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Suspected to breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Multi-Trunked

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Not Showy

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### 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

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#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** No

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** No

**Salt Tolerance:** Good

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** High, Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

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#### 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

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Other Image