Billbergia sp.
(Bromeliad Queen of Tears, Friendship Plant)
There are approximately 50 different species of Billbergias these epiphytic bromeliads. The leaves are growing in rosettes creating a natural pound underneath the leaves. The flower spikes arise from the rosettes. The nice color appearing on the plants is a bract (modified leaves) surrounds the small less conspicuous tubular flowers. Bloom time is usually in spring or summer. After flowering, the mother rosette will die but not before forming "pup" plants along the base. If this plants planted in landscape they need shady or partial shady condition and high humidity. Very decorative sessional flowers in malls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>French Name:</strong> Le Billbergia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pronunciation:</strong> bil-BERG-a</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plant Type:</strong> Groundcover</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Origin:</strong> Central America and South America</td>
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<td><strong>Heat Zones:</strong> 9, 10, 11, 12</td>
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<td><strong>Hardiness Zones:</strong> 9, 10, 11, 12, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Uses:</strong> Specimen, Indoor, Container</td>
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<th>Size/Shape</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Growth Rate:</strong> Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tree Shape:</strong> Upright</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Height at Maturity:</strong> 0.5 to 1 m</td>
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<td><strong>Spread at Maturity:</strong> Less than 50 cm</td>
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<td><strong>Time to Ultimate Height:</strong> 5 to 10 Years</td>
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**Botanical Description**

**Foliage**
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Spiral
- **Leaf Venation:** Nearly Invisible
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen
- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Blade:** 30 - 50
- **Leaf Shape:** Sword Shaped
- **Leaf Margins:** Entire
- **Leaf Textures:** Glossy, Medium
- **Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance
- **Color (growing season):** Green, Variegated
- **Color (changing season):** Green

**Flower**
- **Flower Showiness:** True
- **Flower Size Range:** Over 20
- **Flower Type:** Spike
- **Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)
- **Flower Scent:** Pleasant
- **Flower Color:** Yellow, Orange, Red, White, Pink
- **Seasons:** Spring, Summer

**Trunk**
- **Trunk Has Crownshaft:** False

**Fruit**
- **Fruit Type:** Berry
- **Fruit Showiness:** True
- **Fruit Size Range:** 1.5 - 3
- **Fruit Colors:** Red, Black
- **Seasons:** Spring
Billbergia sp.  
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**Horticulture Management**

**Tolerance**
- Frost Tolerant: No
- Heat Tolerant: Yes
- Drought Tolerant: No
- Salt Tolerance: Poor

**Requirements**
- Soil Requirements: Loam
- Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral
- Water Requirements: Moderate
- Light Requirements: Full, Part

**Management**
- Toxicity: No
- Invasive Potential: Yes
- Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No
- Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure
- Fruit/Leaves/Flowers litter: No
- Surface Rooting: No
- Life Span: Less than 25
- Edible Parts: None
- Pests: Scales
- Plant Propagations: Rhizomes