

Alpinia zerumbet

(Shell Ginger, Variegated Shell Ginger)

Shell ginger is a tall herbaceous perennial that is used in the landscape for its attractive foliage and shell-like flowers. It can grow up to 2.5 meters or more in ideal conditions. The leaves are very long and strikingly variegated with irregular stripes of green and yellow and have a distinct, spicy fragrance. This ginger puts out delicate flowers resembling White Sea shells, tipped pink with a red and yellow throat. It flowers during spring and summer, but will flower intermittently year round in warmer areas. It flowers best if give a few hours of direct sun, but will happily grow even in partial shade.

The rhizome, fruits and seeds have medical uses.



Plant Image

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Landscape Information

French Name: Fleur de mon âme, Gingembre coquille

Pronunciation: al-PIN-ee-uh zair-um-BET

Plant Type: Groundcover

Origin: E. Asia

Heat Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11

Uses: Specimen, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Indoor, Container, Medicinal, Cut Flowers / Arrangements

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Density: Open

Canopy Texture: Coarse

Height at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 m, 1 to 1.5 m, 1.5 to 3 m

Spread at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 2 to 5 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Spiral

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 50 - 80

Leaf Shape: Lanceolate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Glossy, Coarse

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green, Yellow, Variegated

Color(changing season): Green, Yellow

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 10 - 20

Flower Type: Raceme

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Year Round

Trunk

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3, 3 - 7

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Year Round

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: No

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Edible Parts:

Pests: Mites

Plant Propagations: Seed, Division, Offset, Rhizomes

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Fruit Image



© Photo by Monika Fabian

Bark Image



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