

Crinum lily



Crinums in full bloom

Crinum asiaticum - crinum = comet or hanging hair: refers to the trailing tepals (petals) on the flowers of some species; asiaticum = from Asia.

Amaryllidaceae - daffodil family

Evergreen bulbous perennial; flat, dark green to burgundy leaves

Adult size: 60-72" tall, 48-60" width, flower stalk 60-72"

Several flowers per inflorescence, 2-4" white or pinkish flowers

Sub-tropical habitat, native to east Asia

Hardy to zone 9

Full sun to part sun; rich organic soil

Typically develops into large colonies

Educational Points of Interest

- The pollinated flowers of crinum develop into bulbils. Many plants choose to make lots of seed per ovary. Crinum develops 1-3 seeds per ovary, which continue past the embryonic stage and grows into a bulbil while still attached to the inflorescence.
- Crinum lily has chemical defenses against herbivory. The sap has chemicals that deter animals and insects from eating the leaves.
- *Crinum asiaticum* will darken its foliage in bright light. Perhaps as a means to protect the plant cells from overexposure, green foliage will change to an attractive burgundy color in full sun.

- Ornament, ease of cultivation, sexual reproduction, and abundant asexual reproduction make crinum lily a good item for plant sales. The underground bulblets of crinums are attached to the main bulb. However, they are easily separated.



Crinum fruits with developing bulbs inside



Crinum in bud