

AN IDENTIFICATION
PICTURE BOOK FOR
HELICONIAS AND
GINGERS FOR
CUT FLOWER GROWERS

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Jungle Plant & Flower Service

Darwin, NT



Heliconia rostrata, Parrot's beak.

Small sized, although can grow long, pendular heliconia flower, very popular. Picked with 6 to 8 bracts open, or longer if still unmarked. Vase life varies from plant to plant, and needs to be tested, since some only last a few days. The top bract is often removed, since it commonly has black marks on it.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia chartacea, Sexy Pink

Medium to large pendular. Very popular hanging flower, clear pink with green edge. Long lasting, green day flowers, flowers all year through.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia chartacea, Sexy Yellow

Similar to other *H. chartaceas*, long lasting clear colour, yellow/green form.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia chartacea, Sexy Scarlet or Marissa

Smaller than Sexy Pink, but otherwise the same, a bit darker and very popular. Flowers year round. Very long lasting.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.

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Heliconia collinsiana

Red and orange pendular flower, large. Flowers from October to April. Very popular garden flower, as well as good cut.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bihai x caribaea, Hot Rio Nites

This is one of the tallest Heliconias, with a very large red/pink flower. Lasts well, but doesn't like cold temperatures even when cut – it will turn black.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bourgeana

A smallish plant – 2 metres – with a very large flower of a deep intense pink, with a paler inside to the bracts.

Medium vase life – if possible fill the bracts with water to extend this.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia birdiana

A beautiful, clear yellow claw. Quite tall, flower large. Good vase life as long as it is kept in water. Not suitable for shipping, since it wilts if out of water. Can be picked as a bud, and drenched in water after shipping, and it will revive.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.

Registered name *Heliconia pseudoamygdiana*



Heliconia latispatha

This medium sized flower comes in several colours – red, orange, and green and yellow. Long lasting, and usually picked nearly fully open, but day flowers must be removed.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia latispatha

Red form of the previous variety.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia caribaea, Barbados.

A very large flower, up to 18 inches across, copper pink, long lasting, flowers readily, almost all the year. Best picked when all bracts are open.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia caribaea, Red

Large, rich red flower to 3 metres tall, very long lasting, regular flowering.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia caribaea, Yellow

Large, rich yellow flower to 3 metres tall, very long lasting, regular flowering. Yellow can be creamier and sometimes tinged green. This flower is more than 60 cm long.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



***Heliconia caribaea*, Burgundy**

A smaller variety of the previous type, deep brown/red, with orange centre.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bihai x caribaea, Kawauchi

Tall, very strong red flower with a gold edge, lasts well, flowers during wet season.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bihai x caribaea, Manoa Sunrise

Large free flowering red and green flowers, lasts well. Flowers year round.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bihai x caribaea, Jacquinii

Regular flowering, golden and orange colouring, good quality flower. Very popular.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bihai x caribaea, Criswick

One of the tallest with the biggest flower, often 3 foot long (90 cm). Strong rich red. Very long lasting, flowers during wet season. Very heavy for airfreight.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bihai, Claw 2.

Very popular, very commonly grown claw type flower. Flowers year round, medium to large flowers, often considered the 'typical' heliconia.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia bihai, Nappi

Another claw – very strong flower, often angled, brilliant colours, flowers regularly.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia stricta, Tagami

A soft flower, very pretty orange with yellow touches. Easily grown, bushes from 3 to 6 feet. Flowers quite wide, and stems can be tall – up to five feet.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia stricta, Bucky

A softer flower, clear orange red, very popular, not heavy, plant grows 6 feet tall, flower to four feet, medium sized.

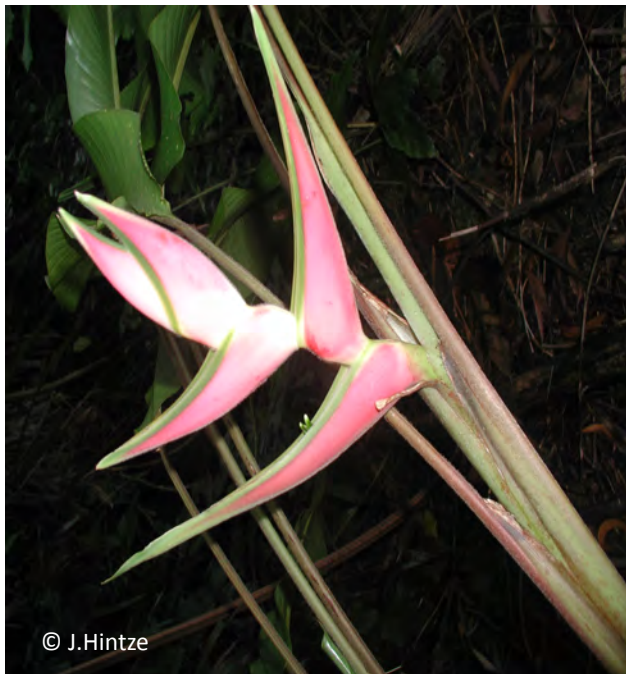
Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia champneana, Maya Blood

Fairly large heavy claw type, plant medium sized, comes in different colors – yellow and yellow with red patches and streaks.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia orthotricha, Eden Pink

Very popular medium sized claw. Pale pink with green edge, has a velvet furry surface. Very long lasting. Bush grows 6- 8 feet, flowers can be quite tall.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia orthotricha, Imperial

All these types of flowers are long lasting, very good cut flowers, very striking colours. Mainly flower during the wet season, but some flowers available year round.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



***Heliconia orthotricha*, Tivaro**

Small plant to three or four feet, flower small, 18 inches (45 cm), very clean looking, neat flower, very popular for smaller floral arrangements.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



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Heliconia orthotricha, She

Brilliant pink flower, long lasting, regular flowering, stems and flowers velvety.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.

Registered Name H. orthotricha Baby Pink



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Heliconia orthotricha, Eden Apricot

Long lasting, good flowering, medium tall, semi-shade to full sun. Flowers and stems slightly velvety.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.

Registered name H. orthotricha Butterfield



Heliconia orthotricha, Garden of Eden

Another variation of the previous type, but smooth surface.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia episcopalis

Smallish flower, (10 cm) usually yellow and red, as shown, but there are pure yellow and pure red varieties. Should be picked when quite young. Can be two metres tall. Moderate vase life.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



**Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata,
Tropic Fleur**

Tall, strong flowering , picked when open, since day flowers do not fall. Long lasting. Interesting reversal of colours, with darker tips and pale base.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



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**Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata,
Guyana**

Long lasting, tall brilliant flower, does not drop dayflowers, so can be used open.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata, Halloween

Very tall, strong plant, flower relatively small, up to 8 inches (20 cm) across, usually picked with two or three bracts open, since day flowers do not drop.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.

Registered name: H. psitt. x spathocircinata, var. Alan Carle



**Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata,
Daintree Red**

Tallish, clean plain red/orange flower. Sold open, since day flowers do not show much, and do not drop. Does not flower during cold weather.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.

Registered name Golden Torch Sunshine



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Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata, Scarlet Torch

Shorter plant but flower medium sized – 6 to 8 inches (15-20 cm).
Sold open as long as day flowers not showing. Does not flower
during cold weather.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.

Registered name Golden Torch Adrian



Heliconia psittacorum, Parakeet

Very pale small flower, popular for its delicate colour.
Long lasting. Does not flower during cold weather.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia psittacorum, Sassy

Standard small Heliconia, usually picked before dayflowers show. Very pretty pink and silvery white flower, dayflowers orange. Long lasting. Does not flower during cold weather. Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia psittacorum, Lady Di.

Flowers well, year round. Cherry red flowers blend well with other colours, cream day flowers. Usually picked before dayflowers show. Medium vase life. Damaged by cold weather.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia psittacorum, Petra

The most popular of the small heliconias, long lasting, heavy stems and foliage. Damaged by cold weather.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Heliconia psittacorum, St.Vincent Pink

A very reliable pink small flower, generally strong stem with long narrow leaves. Does not flower during cold weather.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Alpinia purpurata

Pink Alpinia, from the seedling range called Darwin Princess.
Excellent cut flower, long vase life, medium productivity.
Produces all year long. Leaves should be trimmed from the stem
since they do not last.
Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Alpinia purpurata, Darwin Princess

Other varieties of *Alpinia purpurata* Darwin Princess,
note all the different colour variations.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Etlingera elatior, Frilly pink torch ginger

Longest lasting of the torch ginger, produces for about 7 months, from May to December. Should be picked just before the day flowers emerge.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



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Etilingera elatior, Almost White torch

This very pale pink Torch Ginger is long lasting, and flowers strongly, almost all the year through.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Etlingera elatior Fleur de Lys, Torch Ginger

This torch ginger has a basically white flower with pink tips, quite long lasting, and very pretty.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



***Etlingera hemispherica*, Tulip Ginger**

One of the Torch Ginger group, but it doesn't open out – it remains cupped like a tulip, or vase shaped.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Etlingera elatior, var. Bloody Mary

Excellent Torch ginger, regular flowering, deep red colour with white edge to sepals. A little smaller than most torch gingers, but good vase life.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Etlingera elatior, Red Torch Ginger

The classic Torch Ginger – a clear simple red, very popular. Medium vase life, but very useful .

Photo location: Lae, PNG.



Costus spicata, Red Costus

Red costus, also comes in Pink, green and yellow, although these are different species. The red knob lasts well but the leaves need to be trimmed to three, since if you leave them all on, they turn yellow in a day or two.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Costus spiralis, Pink Costus

Similar to Red Costus. Quite long lasting but the foliage needs to be trimmed along the stem, as they turn yellow in a day or two. The knob is quite large, up to 3 inches (7 cm) across.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Costus barbatus, Pagoda Ginger

A long lasting Costus as long as the day flowers are removed. Can grow quite tall – 20 cm. Can be used at any size, as long as all but the last two or three leaves are removed. Stem often curved in spiral.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



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Alpinia zerumbet, Shell Ginger

A very pretty and useful medium sized flower – can be used as a pendular in flower arrangements. This is in its bud form. The flower head tends to arch to the back, so the foliage should be trimmed from the stem, but can be used as individual leaves, since it lasts well.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Zingiber spectabilis, Beehive ginger

Beehive gingers are seasonal, flowering from July to December. They come in many colours, ranging from clear green through oranges and browns. They are very long lasting with a sweet scent. They flower on a separate stem from the foliage.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



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Costus dubiosa, Handgrenade

Excellent cut flower, but can become a weed. Seed spreads prolifically. Should be kept clean of old flowers as prevention. Flowers should be picked when smaller, and clean green looking.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Zingiber ottensi, Shampoo ginger

Excellent cut flower, can be picked when small, at which stage it is brownish, but turns red as it matures, as above. Yellow day flowers.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Curcuma cordata, Jewel of Thailand

Very pretty pink, white and green flower. Grows from a rhizome, to about 3 feet tall. Flowers during the wet season, dies back entirely in dry weather. Lasts for about 14 days.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Curcuma roscoeana, Jewel of Burma

Bright orange flowers from a bulb, to three feet tall,
dormant in dry season.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



Curcuma cordata x alismatifolia, Laddawan

A mainly pink curcuma, very many flowers in the four or five month season. Good vase life.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.



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Curcuma sp. Voodoo Magic

Striking, dark shiny flowers, very exciting different flower. Medium vase life, but good seller.

Photo location: Darwin, Australia.