Zephyranthes spp.¹
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Introduction

These dainty, funnel-shaped blooms seemingly pop up overnight after a heavy rain when grown in the wild, appearing in various shades of white, yellow, pink, rose, red, or orange (Fig. 1). In cultivation, rain lily will flower throughout the year if kept alternately wet and dry with the majority of blooms produced in late summer or early fall. The narrow, grasslike foliage blends in well in rock gardens, borders, or can be used in containers.

General Information

Scientific name: Zephyranthes spp.
Pronunciation: zeff-fer-RANTH-eez species
Common name(s): Rain-Lily
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Plant type: bulb/tuber; herbaceous
USDA hardiness zones: 7B through 11 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 7: year round
Planting month for zone 8: year round
Planting month for zone 9: year round
Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round
Origin: native to Florida
Uses: naturalizing; edging
Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

Description

Height: .5 to 1 feet
Spread: .5 to 1 feet

Foliage

Figure 1. Rain-Lily.

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.
Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: parallel
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches; 4 to 8 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Culture
Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: occasionally wet; clay; sand; acidic; loam; slightly alkaline
Drought tolerance: high
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

Other
Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**

Growing in full sun or partial shade, rain lily is tolerant of various soils and is moderately salt-tolerant. Bulbs can be left in the ground overwinter if mulched heavily or can be lifted and replanted in the spring.

*Zephyranthes candida* has dainty, white, late summer to spring blooms; *Zephyranthes rosea* has rose-pin blooms in late summer; and *Zephyranthes sulphurea* has soft yellow, mid-summer blooms.

Propagation is by seed or division.

Problems include maggots and chewing insects.

**Pests and Diseases**

Botrytis may be a problem.