**Anthurium andraeanum**

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### Introduction

Growing best in low light conditions, Anthuriums are handsome exotics with shiny dark green, oblong, heart-shaped leaves (Fig. 1). The long-lasting, showy flower bracts come in shades of red, rose, pink, and white with a protruding pale yellow, tail-like flower spadix. The flower bracts have a puckered appearance and shine as though they were lacquered. Anthuriums will bloom more or less continuously, each plant having four to six flowers during the year. Each flower will last about six weeks on the plant or several weeks when cut and placed in a vase of water.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** Anthurium andraeanum  
**Pronunciation:** an-THUR-ee-um an-dree-AY-num  
**Common name(s):** Tailflower, Flamingo-Flower  
**Family:** Araceae  
**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)  
**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** specimen; container or above-ground planter; border; ground cover; cut flowers; accent; edging; suitable for growing indoors  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

### Description

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Plant habit:** upright  
**Plant density:** open  
**Growth rate:** slow  
**Texture:** coarse  

**Foliage**

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf arrangement: alternate
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: revolute
Leaf shape: saggitate (arrow)
Leaf venation: brachidodrome; pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 8 to 12 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: pink; white; salmon
Flower characteristic: year-round flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: fleshy
Fruit color: red
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: usually with one stem/trunk
Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests
Use and Management

Soils should be moist and high in organic matter, and relative humidity should remain high. Anthurium leaves lose their shiny texture and may die if humidity drops below 50 percent for more than a few days. For interior use, keep potted plants on trays of moist gravel or spray several times per day with water and protect from drafts. Single plants are best used in small gardens. In larger landscapes, a mass of many plants together looks best. Plant two to three feet apart to form a dense foliage effect.

Propagation is by division.

Mites, scales, mealy-bugs, and nematodes can be a problem.

Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.