

Botanical Name: Aspidistra elatior

Common Name: Cast iron plant

Type of Plant: monocot; perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape distinctive, clumping plant with large dark green leaves

erect and arching outwards from a sturdy rhizome

Height 1-3' Spread 3-5' Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors shade to partial shade ; tolerates deep shade

Soil thrives in moist acidic soils, tolerates most

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-9, 12-24); prefers shaded locations

Morphology:

Leaves broadly elliptic, grasslike (parallel veins), taper to

sturdy 6-12" long petiole, dark green, glossy, blades 12-24" long, 3-4" wide

Flowers insignificant--borne at ground level -- not visible--

greenish brown, bell-shaped, 1/2" across, solitary

Fruit 1/4" berry

Propagation: seed, division of clump

Usage: excellent small filler for distinctive foliage; use in

deep shade locations, informal borders, container plants, forest or tropical

style landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular, tolerates heavy, can withstand drought

for brief periods

Fertilizing balanced in spring and summer

Pruning none; remove old leaves at base, wash off foliage

Pests/Diseases relatively free, mealybug and whitefly indoors

Special Conditions

Origin: China Family: Liliaceae