

Botanical Name:    Aphelandra squarrosa

Common Name:    Zebra plant

Type of Plant:    dicot: houseplant    Family    Acanthaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape    single or few-stemmed upright plant with striking dark green and  
white striped leaves which are held at a nearly horizontal position

Height    to 2 ft.    Spread    to 1 ft.    Growth Rate    moderate

Environment:

Exposure indoors    prefers warm, well lighted conditions indoors

Soil    average potting soil

Hardiness    difficult to grow in dry areas; requires high humidity

Morphology:

Leaves    simple pinnate leaves to 8" long, 2" across, elliptical, oppositely  
arranged, marked by bold, nearly white striping along veins

Flowers    bright yellow spikes of tubular flowers with yellow bracts surround-  
ing them; typically flowers in the spring

Fruit    small capsule

Propagation:    stem cuttings

Usage:    prized house plant grown for beautiful foliage and striking flowers;  
sometimes used in masses under large trees in atrium gardens; often used as a  
specimen gift plant

Landscape Care:

Watering    requires regular watering; do not allow to dry out; this plant  
requires high humidity

Fertilizing    balanced, half-strength during the growing season

Pruning    head back after flowering in spring to induce bushiness

Pests/Diseases mealybug, spider mite, scale, whitefly

Other

Origin:    Brazil