

Botanical Name: Strelitzia nicolai

Common Name: Giant bird of paradise

Type of Plant: monocot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a large, clumping, tree-like plant (similar to banana),  
with several or many erect stalks; the leaves sheath the stem, arising in  
alternate fashion; the older stems are distinctly compressed along two sides

Height 15-30' Spread 1/2 to equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors partial or full sun; will tolerate full shade inland

Soil a moist acidic loam preferred; tolerates somewhat alkaline

Hardiness some frost (zones 12-13, 18-24); thrive in warm, humid areas

Morphology:

Leaves large, 6-10' long, arching from stem; the blade is in-folded  
oblong; the petiole is thick, succulent, round in cross-section

Flowers white, with distinctive, long-pointed, bird shape, 4-8"  
long, arising from sheaths in the leaf axils along the trunk

Fruit a capsule: 1" long

Propagation: seed, or divisions of the clump

Usage: a large background mass or big accent clump for its large  
foliage and distinct tropical effect; flowers are not as showy as those  
produced by Strelitzia reginae

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; can tolerate heavy irrigation; plant  
survives drought but looks shabby in dry habitats

Fertilizing balanced, as needed; check for chlorosis

Pruning remove older, lower leaves as they die; thin out clump

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Origin: trop. Africa Family: Musaceae