

Ananas comosus 'Variegatus' Variegated Pineapple¹

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Introduction

The 24 to 30-inch-long, stiff, bright green leaves have spiny tips and margins (Fig. 1). Leaves arise from a tight rosette. Pineapples are often planted for their tropical appearance and as a horticultural novelty. The fruit appears on top of a central stalk after a year or more.

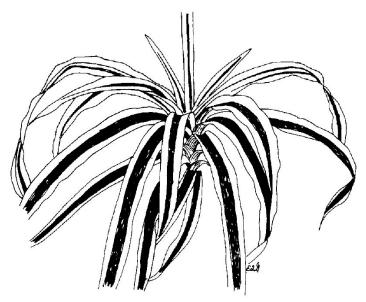


Figure 1. Variegated pineapple.

General Information

Scientific name: *Ananas comosus* 'Variegatus' Pronunciation: uh-NAN-us ko-MO-sus Common name(s): variegated pineapple

Family: Bromeliaceae

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 10 through 11 (Fig. 2) **Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: ground cover; accent; specimen; border

Availablity: somewhat available, may have to go out of the

region to find the plant



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet Spread: 3 to 5 feet Plant habit: round Plant density: moderate Growth rate: slow Texture: medium

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Foliage

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually

without a stem
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: spiny
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen **Leaf blade length:** 18 to 36 inches

Leaf color: variegated

Fall color: no fall color change Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: red

Flower characteristic: summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: 6 to 12 inches

Fruit cover: fleshy
Fruit color: green; yellow

Fruit characteristic: suited for human consumption;

persists on the plant

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 part shade/part sun **Soil tolerances:** acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: high Soil salt tolerances: unknown Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem

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

Pest resistance: very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases which can affect plant health or aesthetics

Use and Management

Although the plants will tolerate full sun to fairly dark conditions inside, Pineapple is most attractive as an ornamental

if given some protection from full sun. Well-drained soil is most suitable for best growth. They can be used as a specimen, or grouped as a groundcover in a mass planting.

Plant on fourfoot centers to allow plants room to spread their foliage. Do not plant in areas where children play because the spines can injure them if they contact the leaves.

The cultivar 'Variegatus' is grown for its striking variegated foliage and is quite popular.

Propagation is by dividing the suckers from the base of the parent plant and also by rooting the leafy top of a mature fruit.

Pests and Diseases

Mites, scales, and mealy-bugs can be serious pest problems.

No diseases are of major concern.