

## ***Dracaena reflexa* Reflexed Dracaena<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Introduction**

This irregularly-shaped, tall growing *Dracaena* nearly grows into a tree. Specimens 15 to 20 feet tall are known to occur in protected landscapes and inside buildings. Leaves are unmistakably darker green than most other plants. They are arranged alternately around the thick stems.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Dracaena reflexa*

**Pronunciation:** druh-SEE-nuh ree-FLECKS-uh

**Common name(s):** Reflexed Dracaena

**Family:** *Agavaceae*

**Plant type:** tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10B through 11 (Fig. 1)

**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** specimen; border; accent; suitable for growing indoors; cut foliage/twigs

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

### **Description**

**Height:** 8 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

**Plant habit:** upright; oval

**Plant density:** open

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

### **Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** lanceolate

**Leaf venation:** parallel

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**Figure 1.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** unknown

**Fruit length:** unknown

**Fruit cover:** unknown

**Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; showy

**Current year stem/twig color:** gray/silver

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; alkaline; sand; loam; clay;

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** poor

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 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**

Reflexed Dracaena is not for every outdoor tropical landscape due to its unusual form. It is most often used as an interiorscape plant in malls and homes. Despite the irregular growth habit, it is probably best suited for the formal landscape.

Best growth is in partial sun outdoors or direct light indoors. Drought tolerance is good making it well suited for the non-irrigated landscape. Keep the plant away from direct coastal exposure since it is sensitive to salt spray.

## **Pests and Diseases**

There are no major problems growing this Dracaena.