

***Dracaena thalioides* Lance Dracaena, Dwarf Dracaena¹**

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Introduction

Dracaena thalioides is a plant that finds its native habitat in tropical Africa (Fig. 1). This 1- to 2-foot-tall species has an upright growth habit and is used in the landscape for its attractive foliage. The dark green leaves are 12 inches long and sit atop a 10-inch-long petiole. The leaf blades are lanceolate in shape and have prominent parallel veins. Small, pink, star-shaped flowers occur in 10-inch-long spikes that appear at various times throughout the year. The flowers and small, fleshy fruits of this plant are inconspicuous.

General Information

Scientific name: *Dracaena thalioides*

Pronunciation: druh-SEE-nuh thal-ee-OY-deez

Common name(s): Lance Dracaena, Dwarf Dracaena

Family: *Agavaceae*

Plant type: ground cover

USDA hardiness zones: 10B through 11 (Fig. 2)

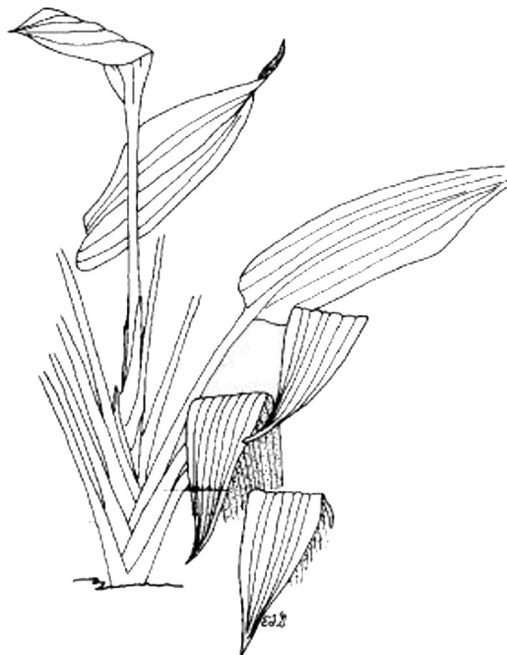


Figure 1. Lance Dracaena.

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: mass planting; ground cover; suitable for growing indoors

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Leaf blade length: 8 to 12 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Description

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: coarse

Flower

Flower color: pink

Flower characteristic: unpleasant fragrance; year-round flowering

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: linear

Leaf venation: parallel

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: unknown

Fruit cover: fleshy

Fruit color: unknown

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: not applicable

Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Pests and Diseases

No known pests are associated with *Dracaena thalioides*.

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in the shade

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

Drought tolerance:

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Other

Roots: sprouts from roots or lower trunk

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

Lance Dracaena is one of the most shade tolerant plants used in south Florida landscapes. It is frequently utilized as a tall ground cover for shady areas of the landscape and also makes a nice indoor container plant. It is used like Cast Iron Plant is in USDA hardiness zones 7 through 9.

This plant will flourish in partial to full shade on rich, moist soils of good drainage. It performs well in acidic soils and will thrive on two applications of fertilizer per summer.