

# SHEL MERDINE

## SECOND NATURE



### **Ermine Canna** *Canna 'Ermine'*

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

#### **Ornamental Features**

Ermine Canna features bold spikes of white orchid-like flowers with creamy white overtones at the ends of the stems from early summer to late fall. Its large glossy pointy leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the season. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

#### **Landscape Attributes**

Ermine Canna is an herbaceous annual with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Ermine Canna is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

#### **Planting & Growing**

Ermine Canna will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.



*Ermine Canna flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Ermine Canna is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.