

Orange Bird of Paradise



Savvy gardeners are trending toward adding tropical drama to annual patio pots, and this plant will put the "thrill" in your container "thrillers."

Strelitzia reginae

- **Use:** Tropical looking plant valued for its exotic bird-like white flower heads. Long-lasting cut flowers. Used as an accent, especially on patios or near pools. Good in containers. We have heard some people have success with over wintering it here, but it must be in the right location. We recommend you keep this as a container plant or plant it pot and all in the ground and bring inside in the winter.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full to partial sun. Can handle a wide variety of soils and can grow in a variety of conditions. One condition that it cannot take is having extremely WET soil so it is best to keep it on the dry side. It also likes a "salt free" diet so make sure that you use good water and stay away from the cheap fertilizers.
- **Growth:** Grows 6 feet tall in one season an about 2-3 wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 9-11; Annual /Houseplant
- **Foliage:** Evergreen as a houseplant .
- **Flower:** Dare to be different. The textural contrast of the large (up to 4' tall) gray-green, banana-like leaves add a tropical feel and are attractive all season long. The exotic flowers with three brilliant orange sepals and three bright blue petals emerge from a hard beaklike sheath at a right angle to the stem, giving the appearance of a bird's head. It reliably reblooms and although the blooms are sporadic, they last for weeks. Don't expect flowers indoors unless very high light all day.

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