



gloriosa



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Photos courtesy of the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center

Gloriosa superba 'Rothschildiana'
Glory lily, Climbing lily, Flame lily, Tiger's claw, *Gloriosa* lily, Rothschild lily

BOTANICAL NAME

Gloriosa superba 'Rothschildiana'
(glo-ree-OH-suh su-PER-buh
roth-SHIELD-ee-a-nuh)

COMMON NAMES

Glory lily, Climbing lily, Flame lily, Tiger's claw, *Gloriosa* lily, Rothschild lily

DESCRIPTION

These dramatic, brightly colored flowers have strongly reflexed, wavy-edged petals featuring a flamelike pattern. The tuberous plants have a twining growth habit, with coiling tendrils that emerge from the tips of the leaves. The plants can grow up to 5 or 6 feet, and the blooms average 2 to 3 inches in diameter.

COLORS

The most familiar *Gloriosa* to florists, *G.*

superba 'Rothschildiana', features brilliant red "flames" on the gold base of each petal. A relatively new cultivar, *G. superba* 'Citrina', has citron-yellow blooms with contrasting dark-red patches at the bases of the petals.

VASE LIFE

Gloriosas will last up to two weeks as cut flowers if they receive proper care throughout the distribution chain and in consumers' homes.

AVAILABILITY

Gloriosas are available year-round from Holland although production is limited in January. From domestic sources, the flowers are available between April and August in limited supply.

vase-life extenders

PROCESSING Upon arrival, remove the plastic bags that surround the fully opened blooms, recut the stems, and treat the flowers with a hydrating solution. After the hydration treatment, place the flower stems into a properly prepared cold flower-food solution.

REFRIGERATION Refrigerate at no lower than 55 F. Temperatures lower than 55 F can cause petals to turn brown.

WATER Check the water level daily, and remove any dying blooms or foliage. Recut the stems every two or three days to ensure

effective water uptake, and, at the same time, clean and refill containers or vases with properly prepared flower-food solution.

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY *Gloriosa* lilies are sensitive to ethylene gas, and they are nearly always treated with an ethylene inhibitor at the grower level. Check with your supplier to make sure they have been treated, and store them away from fruits and vegetables.



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Some information provided by:
Botanica, by R.G. Turner Jr. and Ernie Wasson
"Caring for Cut Flowers," by Rod Jones
Dave's Garden, www.davesgarden.com
Florida Gardener, www.floridagardener.com
Floridata, www.floridata.com
Florists' Review magazine, www.floristsreview.com
PlantFacts, of the Ohio State University
<http://plantfacts.osu.edu>

Reach "Cut Flower of the Month" writer Amy Bauer at abauer@superfloralretailing.com.

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME The genus name "*Gloriosa*" comes from the Latin word "*gloriosus*," which means "glorious." The cultivar name, "Rothschildiana," is in honor of British members of the Rothschild banking family, notably Lionel Water Rothschild, the second Baron Rothschild (1868-1937), and Ferdinand James de Rothschild (1839-1898), who had a large collection of orchids at Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire.

FAMILY *Gloriosas* are members of the *Liliaceae* family. Relatives include all species of *Lilium* (lilies), *Ornithogalum* (stars-of-Bethlehem), *Hyacinthus* (hyacinths) and *Tulipa* (tulips).

HOME SWEET HOME *Gloriosas* are native to tropical Africa and Asia.

TOXIC PLANTS Warn customers to use caution with these flowers around children and pets. All parts of *Gloriosas*, particularly the tubers (thickened roots), which resemble yams, are toxic if ingested. The plants contain the poisonous alkaloid colchicine.

FAMOUS FLOWER The *Gloriosa* was among tropical blooms featured on U.S. postage stamps issued in 1999. It is the national flower of Zimbabwe. **sfr**

quality checklist

WHAT TO LOOK FOR Look for healthy floral tissue and turgid green leaves with no signs of yellowing. These flowers are usually sold in five-stem bunches. It doesn't matter if the pollen-containing anthers remain or not.

SAFE SHIPPING *Gloriosas* are harvested when they are fully opened. They are shipped in nitrogen-filled bags to prevent damage to the blossoms. The bags and nitrogen gas also inhibit ethylene gas and keep the humidity around the flowers high.