

nerine



NERINE BOWDENII
GUERNSEY LILY, SPIDER LILY

BOTANICAL NAME

Nerine spp. (Nur-EEN or ne-REEN)

COMMON NAMES

Guernsey lily, Spider lily

DESCRIPTION

Nerines' individual flowers are composed of six ruffled, strap-shaped petals. The stems of these bulb flowers are 16 to 28 inches long and leafless.

COLORS

These striking blossoms come in a wide spectrum of pink hues, from brilliant fuchsia to blush. *Nerines* also can be found in hues of white, reddish-orange and deep red.

VASE LIFE

Nerines can last from six to 14 days, depending upon the variety and the care they receive.

AVAILABILITY

In general, *Nerines* are available year-round, but check in advance with your wholesaler or grower. Market prices will vary greatly depending on the source.

vase-life extenders

REFRIGERATION *Nerines* are somewhat chill sensitive. Keep the flowers refrigerated, but do not allow the temperature to go below 37 F.

WATER Misting these flowers frequently is beneficial.

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY Some varieties of *Nerines* have been found to be sensitive to ethylene gas, which can cause the flowers to take on a crepelike appearance. Check with your supplier to make sure your flowers have been treated with an anti-ethylene agent at the grower level or during transportation.

BULB FOOD A flower food that is specifically formulated for bulb flowers is best for *Nerines*.



N. BOWDENII
'FAVORIET'



N. BOWDENII
'ALBIVETTA'



N. BOWDENII
'RAS VAN ROON'

fun facts

FAMILY *Nerines* are members of the *Amaryllidaceae* family, which includes about 90 genera and 1,200 species including *Agapanthus* (lily-of-the-nile), *Clivia* (kaffir lily), *Hippeastrum* (amaryllis) and *Narcissus* (daffodil). Most members of the *Amaryllidaceae* family are true bulbs.

ORIGINS The genus *Nerine* is made up of approximately 30 species of small- to medium-sized bulbous plants that are native to South Africa.

HISTORY The Rev. William Herbert, an *Amaryllid* expert, established the *Nerine* genus in 1820. It is said he named it for *Nerine*, the Greek mythological sea nymph, or for *Nereide*, the daughter of *Nereus*, son of *Oceanus*.

BLOSSOMS Bulbs can take up to two years to develop before they are strong enough to produce a blossom. Bigger bulbs can produce two stems or more when treated well.

of note

DESIGN TIPS These blossoms create an instant focal point in any type of design. They show well in contemporary design styles such as vegetative, parallel systems and formal-linear designs. *Nerines* are excellent in hand-tied bouquets, and individual florets can be used in wedding and corsage work.

CONSUMER CARE TIPS Advise customers to display their flowers in cool areas away from the sun and other heat sources including electronic equipment. The flowers shouldn't be placed near bowls of fruit because ethylene gas can hasten development and shorten vase life.

CAUTION All parts of these bulb flowers can be mildly toxic if ingested, causing vomiting and/or diarrhea. Keep out of the reach of children and pets. These flowers also can cause contact dermatitis in some people.

quality checklist

BLOOMS AND STEMS Look for puffy, undamaged heads and several tight buds just opening and showing color. Avoid blossoms and stems with any brown spots or signs of mold or rot. **sfr**

Some information provided by:

The California Cut Flower Commission, www.cffc.org
The Flower Council of Holland, www.flowercouncil.org
Plants Africa, www.plantzafrica.com
Shields Gardens Ltd., www.shieldsgardens.com
Mainly Amaryllids, <http://mainlyamaryllidsgarden.com>
Flower Promotion Organization
www.flowerpossibilities.com
The Chain of Life Network®, www.chainoflifenetw.org

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Reach "Cut Flower of the Month" writer Steven W. Brown, AIFD, at sbfloral@aol.com or (415) 239-3140.

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