

## Native Plant of the Month

By Malcolm Wells

### *Crinum pedunculatum*

*Crinum pedunculatum* (Swamp Lily, River Lily, Spider Lily) is a large hardy plant that can reach two or three metres in height, and spread two or three metres. It naturally occurs along coastal Queensland in swamps and on river banks, and in New South Wales as far south as Newcastle along streams and tidal areas.

White, perfumed flowers appear between November & March, making it a great feature plant for the home garden. It grows in a wide range of conditions from full sun to shade, tolerating poor drainage and clay soils, and will even grow well under established eucalypts or in containers. Though hardy, the plants are vulnerable to attack from caterpillars of the moth *Spodoptera picta*, as well as snails and slugs, so steps may need to be taken to protect them from these pests.



The species is easily grown from seed, which should be kept moist. Seeds sometimes germinate while still attached to the parent plant.

Source: <http://www.anpsa.org.au/c-ped.html>

Three species of *Crinum* are found in Central Queensland. For identification characteristics use *Plants of Capricornia* (Melzer & Plumb) p. 478. More info: [Australian Native Plants Society \(Australia\)](#)