

Botanical name:
Genus: Vriesea
Species: spp.

Common Name(s):
Flaming sword
Latin Family Name:
Bromeliaceae
English Family Name:
Bromeliad

This genus of the bromeliad family has 100's of species
This genus is closely related to Guzmania

The plant

Origin; country or region: Central & South America

Growth habit: Most Vriesea are epiphytes and grow soil-less on trees they have no roots

All nutrients are taken in through the center "tank" made by a rosette of leaves

Flower description: Central flowering bract in a bright colour

Blooming period/availability: A plant will only bear a single flower in its entire lifetime!

Leaf/Foliage Description: Showy banded leaves

Usage: Original, colorful and exotic

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

Showy leaves and knock-out blooms

Adds a tropical touch to the space, looks good if paired with other tropical plants

Widely used commercially in indoor spaces like offices and shopping malls for the colorful, long-lasting inflorescence and banded leaves

Relatively free of any pests and disease

Good plant for beginners

Long lasting bract

WEAKNESS:

Tips can brown easily

Leaves react to hard water

Many plant lovers may choose the Guzmania over the Vriesea (Personally-prefer the Guzmania:)

These tropical plants harbor a wide variety of insect fauna

Care & Handling

Longevity: Flower lasts approx 3-4 months

The 'mother plant' may die off but new plantlets form that can be re-potted

Water requirements: Clean or distilled water into the central 'vase' of the plant

Light: Bright, indirect sunlight

Soil/Nutrition requirements: Requires soil that is sufficiently rich and very well-drained to grow well

Special care/remarks: Vriesea never grows far-reaching roots, which is why a small pot, about 4 inches (10 cm) across and deep, is more than enough

