

Queen Ann Crinum

Queen Emma is a variety of Crinum lily, scientifically known as *Crinum augustum*. Many things grow big in the tropics, and, according to the Chicago Botanic Garden, these Southeast Asia natives are no different: Their bulbs alone can weigh up to 20 lbs. each. Often called giant spider lilies, the richly scented flowers of Queen Emma have long stringy white and purplish-pink petals that burst out into a star shape. Some blooms have more reddish hues mixed in as well. The name Queen Emma is a dedication to the former ruler of the Hawaiian Islands, who was popular amongst the general public because of her humanitarian nature. She was also a plant lover.

Foliage on the *Crinum augustum* is just as big and bold as the showy blooms themselves. Each emerald and purple leaf can grow to a length of 36 inches, with the entire plant topping out at about 5 feet high and 3 feet around. They are truly exotic, and their tropical origins mean they are only hardy in USDA temperature zones 8 and higher. In those zones' cooler regions, they will flower from spring to summer. In the hottest areas, however, they can constantly blossom year-round.

