**Hymenocallis littoralis** L.
Spider lily

*Hymenocallis littoralis* is native to South America. The genus *Hymenocallis* is named from the Greek word ‘hymen’, which means membrane, and ‘callos’, which means beauty. The name *Hymenocallis* thus means ‘beautiful membrane’. It refers to the thin membrane connecting the filaments of the flower. Spider lily is a bulbous ornamental plant which grows to a height of 45-60 cm tall. Spider lily has long, broad and strap shaped dark green leaves which grow directly from an underground bulb. It is cultivated for its white, fragrant spidery shaped spectacular showy flowers. The white flowers have long narrow reflexed petals behind a central staminal cup. They have long green stamen filaments and extremely long, hanging petals, resembling a spider. The long and narrow petals have a thin membrane between them, which probably describes the origin of its scientific name. In a single well developed plant, 2-3 flower umbels are produced at a time. An umbel produces 9-10 flowers on its head.

**Propagation**

They are propagated through bulbs and bulb divisions.

**Soil and Climate**

Spider lily prefers sunny situations. The plant that can tolerate the broadest possible range of growing conditions. It can grow in in wet boggy areas, as well as in dry areas. It is suitable for growing in the open field conditions as well as in pots.

**Uses**

It is cultivated for white, fragrant spider shaped flowers for varied uses such as loose flower for making venis, decoration purposes, bouquets *etc*. It is also attractive as a cut flower, but the flowers do not last for long time. These plants are very well suited for border plantings in the gardens, alongside the boundary walls and water channels, in herbaceous border, alongside the lawn and also in beds in the gardens. Spider lily is fast growing, hence a very affordable solution for any garden. It creates a brilliant, tall ground cover in short span of time. It is well suited for planting as a specimen in small gardens. Flowers and foliage both attract attention. Spider Lily makes a spectacular addition to any landscape.