



STRELITZIA ALBA

Fam. Strelitziaceae

DESCRIPTION

It is an evergreen with large leaves usually parallel to each other. It has a tree-like habit and has white inflorescences.

LEAVES

The leaves are large, persistent, erect, leathery, oval, elongated and bright green.

FRUITS

A trilocular pod contains black seeds with a feathery shell in different colours.

HABITAT

This species is native to South Africa and the equatorial areas.

DISTRIBUTION

It is grown in greenhouses where it forms thick and robust bushes and is considered a houseplant; in the southern regions, on some islands and even in some coastal areas, it can be grown outdoors, in open ground as an ornamental shrub.

STEM

Woody pseudo-stem formed by the base that branches out from the ground.

FLOWERS

The flowers are asymmetrical and have 3 small and 3 large petals, two of which are bound together. They are light blue, lilac or white and are characterised by long dark red bracts. Generally, the first flowering happens when the *Strelitzia* is at least 5 years of age. Blooming occurs between April and May.

INTERESTING FACTS

Commonly known as "Bird of paradise", this plant was named after the queen consort of the British King George III, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

ROOTS

Very robust, fasciculated and fleshy roots that can grow quite deep to obtain water and nutrients.

