

Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Pachystachys lutea
Common Name	Golden Shrimp
Mature Size	3'x 3'
Bloom Color	Golden Yellow
Bloom Period	Perpetual
Boom Form	Unusual Shrimp Shape
Water	Moderate
Light	Best in Light Shade
USDA Zone	8B & South
Fragrance	None
Uses	Beds Borders Pots
Special Features	Unusual Flowers Attracts Butterflies & Hummingbirds



Golden or Yellow Shrimp Plants are unique tropical flowering perennials with uniquely shaped, bright golden yellow colored 'flowers' that are actually not a flower at all, but rather a *bract* (a form of leaf tissue...also seen in poinsettias and bougainvilleas). The 'flower' resembles a large shrimp in shape..hence the common name. Shrimp plants are very interesting and unique, and always a treat, even if you've seen them before.

The *flower* is actually a long tongue shaped pair of oval petals that extend out of the yellow bract. On the *Golden Yellow Shrimp Plant* these petals are bright pure white.

Shrimp Plants are easy to grow, and quick to establish. The natural growth habit of nearly all the cultivars is tall and open. They generally benefit greatly from regular light pruning and pinching, and frequent feeding.

Shrimps work great in mixed perennial beds, borders or any other spot where you want a mass of continuous color or a bright pop of color. The bloom cycle is long, beginning in the early spring and lasting until early winter in warm climates. The bloom heads take several weeks to mature and remain at their peak for a week or more.

Shrimp plants lend great interest, texture and color and are nice in combination with crotons, coleus or similar plants with colored leaves. Shrimp Plants also make very nice potted accent plants for the porch, patio or poolside, or as a part of large mixed perennial garden pots. They attract hummingbirds and butterflies, and are a nectar source, but caterpillars do not typically feed on them to excess.

For the best results with your new Shrimp Plant:

- Plant in fertile, well draining soil or a commercial potting media.
- Locate in light shade
- Provide supplemental irrigation
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting plant food initially and a least 2 times yearly thereafter
- Supplement feed with water soluble plant food according to the label directions
- Prune or pinch regularly.
- Prune for shape and to control size after flowering.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com.

Care of Your New Shade Garden Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately plant or repot the new plant into a prepared bed or a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate in light to moderate shade. This plant must be protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water. If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over, or adapted to growing indoors year round in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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