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## Farmers' Corner- A Knowledge Hub

### **Heliconia chartacea commonly known as Flamingo**

*Heliconia chartacea* is an evergreen perennial, rhizomatous herbaceous species reaching a height of 3-4 m. The plant possess oblong leaves and leaf lamina is subdivided perpendicular to rachis in numerous sections having different breadth. The leaf length ranges from 2.5 to 3.0 m with 25 to 30 cm breadth. The leaves and inflorescence have waxy coating. The inflorescence are drooping nature with robust peduncle which grows to a length of 1.5 m. The colour of bract varies from pink to scarlet red and the number of bracts per inflorescence ranges from 12-24. This species is more ornamental in the genus *Heliconia* which have numerous varieties among which the most famous and diffused are the Pink and Scarlet which are maintained at ICAR-CIARI. This species can be cultivated in humid tropical region in organic enriched soil. It is adapted to partially shaded condition. Under sub-tropical condition, the species is grown as a potted plant. The inflorescence are long lasting and have shelf life of two weeks. Flowering will be initiated one year after planting of rhizomes. About 22-24 spikes can be harvested per clump per year.



**Benefit:** *Heliconia chartacea* have huge ornamental potential and can be exploited for cut flower purpose and specimen plant in landscape horticulture.

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