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Farmers' Corner- A Knowledge Hub

Heliconia longissima commonly known as Red Wings

Heliconia longissima is commonly known as Red Wings. This species is native to Columbia and grows luxuriantly in tropical humid condition. Well adapted to partially shaded condition. This is an evergreen, perennial, rhizomatous, herbaceous species growing to a height of 3.0 -4.0 m. The upper portion of the leaf is glabrous and have waxy coating in the base of the leaf. The species is characterized by long pendulous inflorescence which is highly attractive. Inflorescence is generated on a robust peduncle which is a drooping terminal spike with red wavy rachis with 15-30 red wavy bracts. The species is propagated by rhizomes or division of clumps. Flowering is initiated one year after planting. Flowering is observed during October-December. Vase life of the spike is about 2 weeks.



Benefit: *Heliconia longissima* is used for mass planting in landscape horticulture. The flowers are highly attractive with bright red colour and hence holds a space in vases and back drop arrangements.

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