

White Crepe Ginger. *Costus speciosus*.

A tall spiral ginger has a corkscrew shaped stem with outward reaching leaves on side only. Very striking foliage topped by a red cone like seed head and white-crepe like flowers. The species reproduces rapidly by rhizome and seeds. It dies back with frost and doesn't reappear until June. It grows in my yard up to 8 feet tall with a beautiful single spiral leaf pattern. A red seed head is produced from the top in July and August and the white Crepe flowers grow from the seed head.

Full to part sun.



Height: Up to 10 feet (3 m) tall

Description: The showy flowers emerge from between dark red to reddish purple bracts on pinecone-shaped, terminal inflorescences. The individual flowers are trumpet-shaped, up to 4 inches (10 cm) across, and have 3 fused, crinkled, crepe paper-like, white petals and a smaller, yellow, curved, petal-like stamen. The flowers are followed by round, 2/3 inch (1.5 cm) in diameter, red seed capsules containing black seeds and white flesh. The leaves are green, alternate, spirally arranged, and have leaf blades that are narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate in shape. The cane-like stems emerge from underground rhizomes and are upright, unbranched, and green to dark red in color.

In Hawaii, Crepe Ginger grows at the edge of moist, shaded to partly shaded forests at lower elevations.