Description

‘Marble Ginger’ or ‘Striped Narrow Leaf Ginger’ (Alpinia vittata or Alpinia sanderae) is a stunning variegated ginger. Narrow dark green leaves are boldly variegated with white and cream striping. Larger clumps will also produce pendant pink flowers on the tips of stems.

In the ground in warm climates it can grow to 5 feet tall or more, but tends to stay smaller if grown in pots. It forms a dense clump that makes a good accent plant.

Though the plant likes shade, too much of it can rob it of its white streaks and the leaves will become mostly or all green. The plant is a fast grower, and is easily propagated by division of clumps.

It is a tropical species that does not take colder weather well. In cooler climates, it must be kept indoors or a greenhouse over winter.

At a glance:

Suitable for Zones: 10 - 12 (see the Zone Hardiness map page in my eBay store) – root hardy to Zone 9

Sun requirements: Medium sun/part shade/filtered light – too much shade will reduce variegation and make the leaves greener

Flowering times: Summer

Moisture requirements: Moderate

Size when fully grown: 1.5 metres (5 feet) in the ground, smaller in pots

Not frost tolerant

Suitable as an indoor and container plant

Planting instructions

Please plant as soon as possible after you receive the rhizome.

We recommend establishing your plant in a pot, before planting in the garden.

Your rhizome may have leaves, or the leaves may have been partially or completely removed to aid the plant’s health during travel. If the leaves have been completely removed, the rhizome should still have growing ‘buds’ or new shoots as well as the leaf stem.

The rhizome should be planted with the top (leaf stem/new shoots/buds pointing upwards) no more than 3-4 cm under the soil. New shoots or larger buds should be above the soil. You can often look at the rhizome and see where the soil line had been while it was growing.

It is very important not to plant the rhizome too deep, as this will invite fungi and cause root rot. Freshly planted rhizomes need oxygen to grow new roots and will die if the planting medium is too dense or too wet.

After planting, water thoroughly, then do not water again until soil is getting dry. Keep evenly moist, but not wet, when shoots to grow and leaves start to unfold.

If planted in pots, these should be of sufficient size - at least 10 to 15 cm wider than rhizome size. Keep the pots in a warm, sunny place. When leaves start to unfold the plants can be planted out - again in well drained soil.

A slow release fertilizer is ideal in the beginning. Larger and already established plants require more fertilizing and more water.