



Heliconia psittacorum 'Red Devil'

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Origin: 'Red Devil' is a seedling derived from *H. psittacorum* 'Lady Di'. Selected and developed through a partnership with DPIFM Crops, Forestry and Horticulture Division and the NTHA cut-flower growers group.

Description and Uses: 'Red Devil' is the reddest of all the nine new *Psittacorums* and a good producer of flowers. Vase life averages 18 days.

Flowering Season: Flowers all year round with a down period between May to July due to the lower temperatures.

Growing *H. psittacorums*: Generally, *H. psittacorums* grows to 2.0–2.5 m high in full sun conditions. They prefer freely draining soils with high organic matter and regular application of complete fertiliser every four to six weeks, particularly during the hot and humid months. *Psittacorums* require plenty of water, particularly during the dry season when they are under high moisture stress.

Division of rhizomes is the usual propagation method of heliconias. When selecting planting material the rhizome should be firm and of white to pink colouring. Discolouration of roots and rhizomes could suggest the presence of bacterial or fungal diseases and nematodes.

Availability: Plant material is available by contacting the NTHA cut-flower growers group, telephone 8983 3233 for the list of cut-flower nurseries.

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