

## Doryanthes species

### Doryanthes excelsa – Gynea

### Doryanthes palmerii – Spear Lily

Australian native perennial lily with rosettes of large sword-shaped, light green leaves over 1m long. In Spring and Summer, deep blood-red flowers appear on the end of tall stems or scapes up to 6m tall.

Flowers are followed by woody capsules which split open when ripe, releasing flat, slightly winged seeds. Plants grown from seed take 6-7 years to flower.

Best climate: Doryanthes excelsa grows best in subtropical situations but will also grow in cooler areas although the flower spikes are sometimes damaged by frosts.

### Propagation

Seed germinates easily, although plants grown from seed are slow growing and take years to flower.

Rehydrate the seed twice – so soak overnight and then allow to dry for 48 hours and soak again, then sow lightly into a good medium potting mix but only cover lightly. Germination is definitely improved by temperatures of 23°C+ but this is not essential.

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Care: Gynea lilies need deep, well-drained soil and a position in full sun to filtered shade. Plants can be grown from seed, and established clumps can be divided.

### Doryanthes seedlings

Pot up into a deep pot with a well-draining medium. A good quality medium potting mix is ideal and allow plenty of room for root development. Feed the plant with Seasol on potting up and again each two to three weeks. Maintain initially in a warm position where the seedlings get early sun but with some protection from harsh afternoon sun. Water regularly and as needed; the medium should be moist but not wet. Maintain in a frost-free environment for as long as possible as their frost tolerance will increase with size and age.

Protect from slugs, snails and rodents who will gnaw leaves if permitted.

Plant out into a sunny position with a good medium loam. Some protection from late afternoon sun is desirable to maintain them in their best state but not essential.