

Clianthus - Growing Guide

Caring For Clianthus Puniceus

Commonly known as 'Glory Pea' or 'Lobster Claw'.

The largest plant of Clianthus puniceus we have seen grows at Lamorran Gardens in St Mawes, Cornwall. Although it may have started life as a climbing plant against a wall it has become a 12ft tall plant with a similar spread.

The local name for this New Zealand plant is 'parrot's bill' which refers to the shape of its curved keel petals. 'Lobster claw' may be a more appropriate common name in the UK.



Clianthus puniceus



Clianthus puniceus



Clianthus puniceus



Clianthus puniceus 'Albus'



Clianthus puniceus
'Flamingo'



Clianthus puniceus



Clianthus puniceus 'Kaka King'



Clianthus puniceus 'Red Cardinal'

C. puniceus can withstand a little frost in a sheltered location and can partially defoliate with no long term ill effect. However, in more frost prone areas, it is best grown indoors in the greenhouse.

Outdoors it likes to be in full sun in a well drained soil with shelter from cold drying winds. It is however tolerant of salt laden gales. Under glass it needs a loam based potting compost and full light with plenty of water in the growing season and relatively little thereafter.

Some pruning may be necessary to keep it in shape and to cut back the flowered shoots by about a third of their length. This will encourage new shoots with flowers for the next season.

Red spider mite can be a problem in the greenhouse but, otherwise, the plant is trouble free.

Semi ripe summer cuttings are easily rooted. Seed needs to be sown into a warm seed bed in spring.

We also grow forms of this plant which have pure white and deep rose pink flowers. They are equally attractive and unusual (C. puniceus 'Albus', C. puniceus 'Flamingo').

Training Climbers - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/XfXsF7hdgLg?rel=0>

Burncoose Nurseries: Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ

Telephone: +44 (0) 1209 860316 Fax: +44 (0) 1209 860011 Email: info@burncoose.co.uk

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