CULTIVAR & GERMPLASM RELEASES

HORTSCIENCE 27(10):1139. 1992.

‘Flamingo’ *Aglaonema*

R.J. Henny¹, R.T. Poole², and C.A. Conover³

University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences,
Central Florida Research and Education Center, 2807 Binion Road,
Apopka, FL 32703

Additional index words. foliage plant, breeding

Aglaonema cultivars are important ornamental tropical foliage plants because of their ability to thrive at low indoor light and humidity levels. The majority of commercial cultivars have resulted from introductions by plant explorers or collectors. Few hybrid cultivars exist, although there is a great deal of genetic diversity in the genus. Therefore, *Aglaonema* were included in the foliage plant breeding program at the Central Florida Research and Education Center-Apopka. *Aglaonema* × ‘Flamingo’ was developed as part of that program.

Origin and description

Aglaonema ‘Flamingo’ was selected from the progeny of a cross between *Aglaonema* × ‘Manila Whirl’ and hybrid no. 1502 (no. 1502 was an F₁ hybrid of *A. nitidum* ‘Tricolor’ × *Aglaonema* × ‘Manila’). ‘Flamingo’ is a medium-sized plant suitable for production in 15 to 30-cm (1.6 to 3.2 liter) pots. Mature leaves may be 30 cm long and 10 cm wide; they are highlighted by narrow bands of light gray variegation centered around the leaf veins (Fig. 1). Light pink petioles enhance the foliar variegation.

Performance trials

Growth characteristics of *Aglaonema* ‘Flamingo’ were determined in two production growth trials during 1986 and 1987. Dates of the two trials were 1 July 1986 to 1 Apr. 1987 (Trial I) and 27 Mar. 1987 to 23 Sept. 1987 (Trial II). Cuttings were potted in 15 cm pots (1.6 liter) filled with Vergro Container Mix (Verlita Co., Tampa, Fla.). Plants in Trial I were grown under one light level (250 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ maximum) and fertilizer rates of 2.2, 4.4, or 6.6 g of 19N-3P-10K Osmocote (Sierra Chemical, Milpitas, Calif.) per pot applied every 3 months. Those in Trial II were grown at two light levels (125 or 250 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) with an 18C air minimum and the same fertilizer rates as in Trial I.

Received for publication 30 Dec. 1991. Accepted for publication 10 June 1992. Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations Journal Series no. R-02057. The cost of publishing this paper was defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. Under postal regulations, this paper therefore must be hereby marked advertisement solely to indicate this fact.

¹Professor and Geneticist.

²Professor and Plant Physiologist.

³Professor and Center Director.

Rooted cuttings of *Aglaonema* ‘Flamingo’, with stems 7 to 10 cm long and four to five leaves each, reached marketable size in 15-cm pots in 8 to 9 months when grown through the winter (Trial I) and in 6 to 7 months when grown in summer (Trial II). Results from the fertilizer applications of Trial I were similar to Trial II, so only results of Trial II are presented (Table 1). In these trials, plants were bigger and had larger leaves, better color, and better overall rating at the highest fertilizer level, although differences

were slight for leaf length and width, number of shoots, and height. Plants that received the lowest level of fertilizer, 2.2 g/pot, produced several chlorotic leaves. Plants grown at the lower light level had better foliage color and overall plant quality, while those grown under high light had more basal breaks.

Mature plants from Trial I were placed in interior rooms held at 21 to 25C and light intensity of $\approx 12 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ from cool-white fluorescent lamps 12 h daily. Two months later the plants were evaluated as being of good quality.

Availability

Aglaonema ‘Flamingo’ has been released through the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., to Florida nurseries licensed for propagation and distribution of this hybrid. Inquiries regarding participating propagators may be obtained by writing the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443.

Fig. 1. A mature plant of *Aglaonema* ‘Flamingo’.

Table 1. Evaluation of light intensity and fertilizer rate (Osmocote 19N-6P-10K) on growth of *Aglaonema* ‘Flamingo’. This trial was during a 6-month period (27 Mar.-23 Sept. 1987).

Fertilizer (g/pot per 3 months)	Plant ht (cm)	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf width (cm)	Total no. shoots	Foliage color grade*	Final plant grade*
2.2	39.0	23.4	6.9	3.0	2.6	2.8
4.4	43.6	25.7	7.4	3.3	4.0	4.1
6.6	43.4	25.5	7.8	3.4	4.3	4.4
Significance						
Linear	*	*	*	NS	*	*
Quadratic	*	*	NS	*	*	*
Light level ($\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$)						
125	41.7	24.9	7.6	3.0	4.1	4.1
250	42.3	24.9	7.1	3.5	3.2	3.5
Significance						
Linear	NS	NS	*	*	*	*

*Visual rating, where 1 = poor color; 3 = acceptable color; and 5 = excellent color.

*Visual rating, where 1 = poor quality (not salable); 3 = acceptable quality (salable); and 5 = excellent quality.

NS.*Nonsignificant or significant at $\alpha = 0.05$.