Anthurium ‘Show Biz’

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Anthurium andraeanum Lind. (Araceae Juss.), commonly called flamingo lily or tailflower, is produced traditionally for cut flowers due to the large showy orange, pink, red, or white spathes. Cut-flower cultivars generally develop large leaves and long petioles that diminish their use as pot plants. Newly developed interspecific hybrids, such as *Anthurium* ‘Lady Jane’ (Kamemoto and Kuehnle, 1996), *Anthurium* ‘Southern Blush’ (Henny et al., 1988), and *Anthurium* ‘Red Hot’ (Henny, 1998), are produced as flowering pot plants because they are very floriferous and possess a compact, freely branching growth habit suitable for pot production. These hybrids inherited their smaller size and branching growth habit primarily from the dwarf species *A. antioquiense* Engler or *A. amnicola* Dress. *Anthurium amnicola* has small lavender (RHS 75D) spathes and spadices (Royal Horticultural Society, 1995); *A. antioquiense* has white (RHS 156D) spathes and lavender (RHS 76A-B) spadices; *A. ‘Show Biz’* is also a floriferous interspecific hybrid that produces numerous attractive light red spathes and has a compact branched growth habit. These qualities contribute to its release as a new *Anthurium* pot-plant cultivar (Fig. 1) from the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.

Origin

Anthurium ‘Show Biz’ derived its flowering and growth habit from *A. amnicola* and *A. antioquiense*, both of which were involved in its pedigree (Fig. 2). These species along with an accession of *A. andraeanum* G-79 led to development of four Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC) hybrid selections, of which MREC 702 was crossed as female with *Anthurium* ‘Lady Jane’ giving rise to ‘Show Biz’ (Fig 2). ‘Lady Jane’, a popular commercial cultivar, is an interspecific hybrid that most likely has *A. antioquiense* in its parentage, but its exact origin is unknown (Kamemoto and Kuehnle, 1996).

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Description

The description of ‘Show Biz’ is a typical 1-year-old plant grown in a 1.6-L pot. Leaves are lanceolate, dark green (RHS 147A), 19 to 21 cm long, and 11 to 12 cm wide near the base. Petioles are 20 to 24 cm long. The peduncle is yellow-green (RHS 152A-B) and extends 30 to 32 cm above the soil surface when the spathe is fully open. Spathes are 7 to 8 cm long, 3 to 4 cm wide, and medium red (RHS 53B) at anthesis, changing gradually to a lighter red (RHS 51B) prior to senescence. The spadix is 3 to 4 cm long and 5 to 6 mm wide. The spadix is medium purple (RHS

79A) at the tip blending to lighter purple (RHS 79C) at the base when the spathe unfurls. The spadix gradually fades to lavender (RHS 75B-C) as it ages.

Anthurium ‘Show Biz’ flowers are held at or slightly above the foliage. It is distinguished from ‘Lady Jane’, which has green peduncles (RHS 144A) and flowers held just at or slightly below the foliage canopy. Also, *Anthurium* ‘Red Hot’ spathes are held well above the foliage canopy. ‘Showbiz’ has medium red spathes (RHS 53B) that distinguish it from ‘Southern Blush’, which has medium pink (RHS 62A) spathes.

Performance

Growth characteristics of *Anthurium* ‘Show Biz’ were determined using 20-week-old liners from tissue culture rooted in 25-mm cell trays and potted in 1.6-L plastic pots containing a substrate of 6 peat : 4 perlite (v/v). The substrate was amended with 0.9 kg·m⁻³ Micromax, a micronutrient source (Sierra Chemical Co., Milpitas, Calif.) and 4.1 kg·m⁻³ dolomite. Plants were grown in a shaded greenhouse with a maximum light intensity of 125 μmol·m⁻²·s⁻¹, natural photoperiod and air tem-

Fig. 1. A mature *Anthurium* ‘Show Biz’ in a 3.9-L pot.

Fig. 2. Pedigree of *Anthurium* ‘Show Biz’ (female parent listed on top).

Table 1. Size and flowering of *Anthurium* 'Show Biz' grown for 10 months in 1.6-L pots under 125 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ maximum light intensity and natural photoperiod from November to August.

Fertilizer (N) applied per year ($\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$)	Canopy height (cm)	Canopy width (cm)	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf width (cm)	Total no. open flowers	Visual plant quality ^z
59	29.9 $\pm$ 3.7	48.6 $\pm$ 3.2	18.9 $\pm$ 1.1	9.4 $\pm$ 0.8	9.7 $\pm$ 2.1	4.4 $\pm$ 0.5
117	31.3 $\pm$ 2.0	50.9 $\pm$ 3.0	19.9 $\pm$ 1.4	9.6 $\pm$ 0.3	7.4 $\pm$ 2.7	4.9 $\pm$ 0.3
176	30.3 $\pm$ 2.0	50.3 $\pm$ 2.8	19.0 $\pm$ 1.0	9.9 $\pm$ 0.6	5.1 $\pm$ 2.5	4.9 $\pm$ 0.3
Significance	NS	NS	NS	NS	L	L

^zVisual evaluation where 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = saleable, 4 = good and 5 = excellent quality.

^{NS}Nonsignificant and linear (L) significance at $P < 0.05$, respectively.

perature range of 15 to 34 °C. Ten plants were grown at each of three fertilizer levels for 10 months from Nov. to Aug. 1998. Fertilizer levels were derived from 20N–9P–17K at 1.0, 2.0, or 3.0 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ applied as a liquid at 100 mL per pot once per week. Data taken at termination of the experiment included canopy height, canopy width, length and width of the largest leaf and visual plant quality where 1 = poor; 3 = acceptable and 5 = excellent quality. Also, the number of open flowers was counted weekly during the course of the experiment. Data were analyzed using analysis of variance procedures of the SAS program (SAS Insti-

tute, Cary, N.C.). Parameters with means showing significant differences were subjected to regression analysis.

Anthurium 'Show Biz' reached marketable size in 10 months. Fertilizer level did not significantly affect canopy height, canopy width or leaf size (Table 1). Flower production showed a significant linear decrease as fertilizer rate increased. Plant quality displayed a significant linear increase at higher fertilizer levels, although overall quality averaged between good and excellent at all nutritional levels. 'Show Biz' has been patented (U.S. Plant Patent No. 8820).

Availability

Patent rights were assigned to the Florida Foundation Seed Producers. 'Show Biz' is intended for commercial producers growing finished plants in 1.6- or 3.9-L containers. Plants were released to several Florida tissue culture labs for propagation and distribution. Inquiries regarding participating laboratories may be obtained by writing to the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443. Plants for research or breeding purposes may be obtained directly from the authors.

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