

# 'Red Hot' Anthurium

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*Anthurium andraeanum* Linden ex Andre (Araceae Juss.), commonly called tailflower or flamingo lily, is grown traditionally for cut flowers because of its large and showy red, orange, pink, or white spathes. The large leaves and long petioles and peduncles generally preclude use as pot plants. Recently, newly developed interspecific hybrids, such as *Anthurium* × 'Lady Jane' (Kamemoto and Kuehnle, 1996) and *Anthurium* × 'Southern Blush' (Henny et al., 1988) are being grown as flowering pot plants, because their smaller size is suitable for pot production and they are highly floriferous. *Anthurium* × 'Red Hot' is one such interspecific hybrid that exhibits numerous showy red spathes and a compact, freely branching growth habit.

## Origin

*Anthurium* × 'Red Hot' originated from hybridization of *A. amnicola* Dressler, a dwarf species with small lavender (RHS 75D; Royal Horticultural Society, 1995) spathes and a naturally clumping growth habit with an unnamed selection of *A. andraeanum* (accession code G-79) that had pink (RHS 55C) spathes. One of the resulting F<sub>1</sub> hybrids was designated as the female parent and crossed with *Anthurium* × 'Lady Jane' to produce the progeny from which 'Red Hot' was selected (Fig 1). 'Lady Jane' is probably an interspecific hybrid with *A. antioquiense* Engler in its background; however, its exact origin is unknown (Kamemoto and Kuehnle, 1996). It is a popular commercial cultivar with red (RHS 51A) spathes.

## Description

The following characteristics are typical for a 1-year-old *Anthurium* × 'Red Hot' plant grown in a 1.6-L pot. Leaves are dark green (RHS 147A), lanceolate, 18 to 20 cm long, and 11 to 12 cm wide near the base. Petioles are 26 to 34 cm long. The peduncle is gray-orange (RHS 171B), and 20 to 28 cm above the soil surface when the spathe is fully open. Spathes

are 6 to 7 cm long, 4 to 5 cm wide, and medium red (RHS 47B) at anthesis, gradually changing to a lighter red (RHS 48B) prior to senescence. The spadix is orange-red (RHS 34A) apically, blending to red (RHS 53B) basally, and is 3 to 4 cm long and 5 to 6 mm wide (Fig. 2).

'Red Hot' has grayed-orange peduncles (RHS 171B) and flowers that are held well above the foliage; this easily distinguishes it from 'Lady Jane', which has green peduncles (RHS 144A) and flowers held just at or slightly below the foliage canopy. 'Southern Blush' has flowers that are medium pink (RHS 62A) in color.

## Performance

Growth characteristics of *Anthurium* × 'Red Hot' were determined using 30 liners, 20 weeks

from tissue culture and well-rooted in 25-mm cell trays. Liners were potted into 1.6-L plastic pots containing a substrate of 3 Canadian peat : 2 perlite (by volume). The substrate was amended with 0.9 kg·m<sup>-3</sup> of Micromax, a micronutrient source (Sierra Chemical Co., Milpitas, Calif.) and 4.1 kg·m<sup>-3</sup> dolomite. Plants were grown in a shaded greenhouse with a maximum irradiance of 125 μmol·s<sup>-1</sup>·m<sup>-2</sup>, natural photoperiod, and a temperature range of 15 to 34 °C. Ten plants were grown from Nov. to Oct. 1994 at each of three fertilizer [Osmocote (Sierra Chemical Co); 19N–2.6P–10K] levels equivalent to 5.25, 7.0, or 8.75 kg·m<sup>-2</sup> N per year in completely randomized design. Data recorded at termination of the study included canopy height and width, length and width of largest leaf, and numbers of basal shoots, open flowers, and flower buds. In addition, plants were rated for visual quality, where 1 = dead, 3 = acceptable, and 5 = excellent quality.

*Anthurium* × 'Red Hot' reached marketable size in 11 months. Fertilizer level did not significantly affect any of the variables measured. Mature plants were wider than they were tall with means ± standard deviation for canopy height and width of 27.0 cm ± 0.9 and 47.5 cm ± 0.8, respectively. Leaf length (19 cm ± 0.8) was about twice as long as width (11 cm ± 0.5). Plants were well-branched with an average of 6.2 ± 0.1 basal shoots. Both primary and secondary shoots produced blooms resulting in mean open flower and flower bud counts

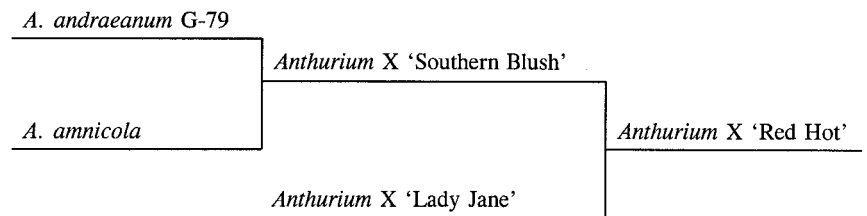


Fig 1. Pedigree of *Anthurium* × 'Red Hot'.



Fig. 2. A mature plant of *Anthurium* × 'Red Hot' in a 3.9-L pot.

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of  $4.6 \pm 0.6$  and  $1.4 \pm 0.4$ , respectively. Plant quality averaged  $4.7 \pm 0.2$  with all plants being rated between good and excellent at each fertilizer level.

#### Availability

'Red Hot' has been patented (U.S. Plant Patent No. PP09355). It is intended for commercial producers growing finished plants in

1.6- or 3.9-L containers. Patent rights have been assigned to the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, and plants have been released to several Florida tissue culture labs for propagation and distribution. Inquiries regarding participating laboratories may be obtained by writing the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443. Plants for research purposes may be obtained directly from R.J.H.

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