

# CRINUM LILIES

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## WHAT IS A CRINUM LILY?

- In the amaryllis family
- Over 180 species in genus
- Propagated by bulbs
- Some grow in deserts, some underwater
- Make underground bulbs that intertwine into clumps
- Produces a rosette of strap-like leaves
- A staple of southern gardens
- Long-lived, commonly seen in old-home site, old cemeteries, abandoned lots, and ditches

## WHAT IS A CRINUM LILY?

- Grow in many climate zones, NE into the Midwest and NW
- Species from the US, Africa, and Asia but most garden types are from South Africa
- Many different forms have been found along the routes of slave trade therefore it's guessed that slaves brought them over
- Usually fragrant





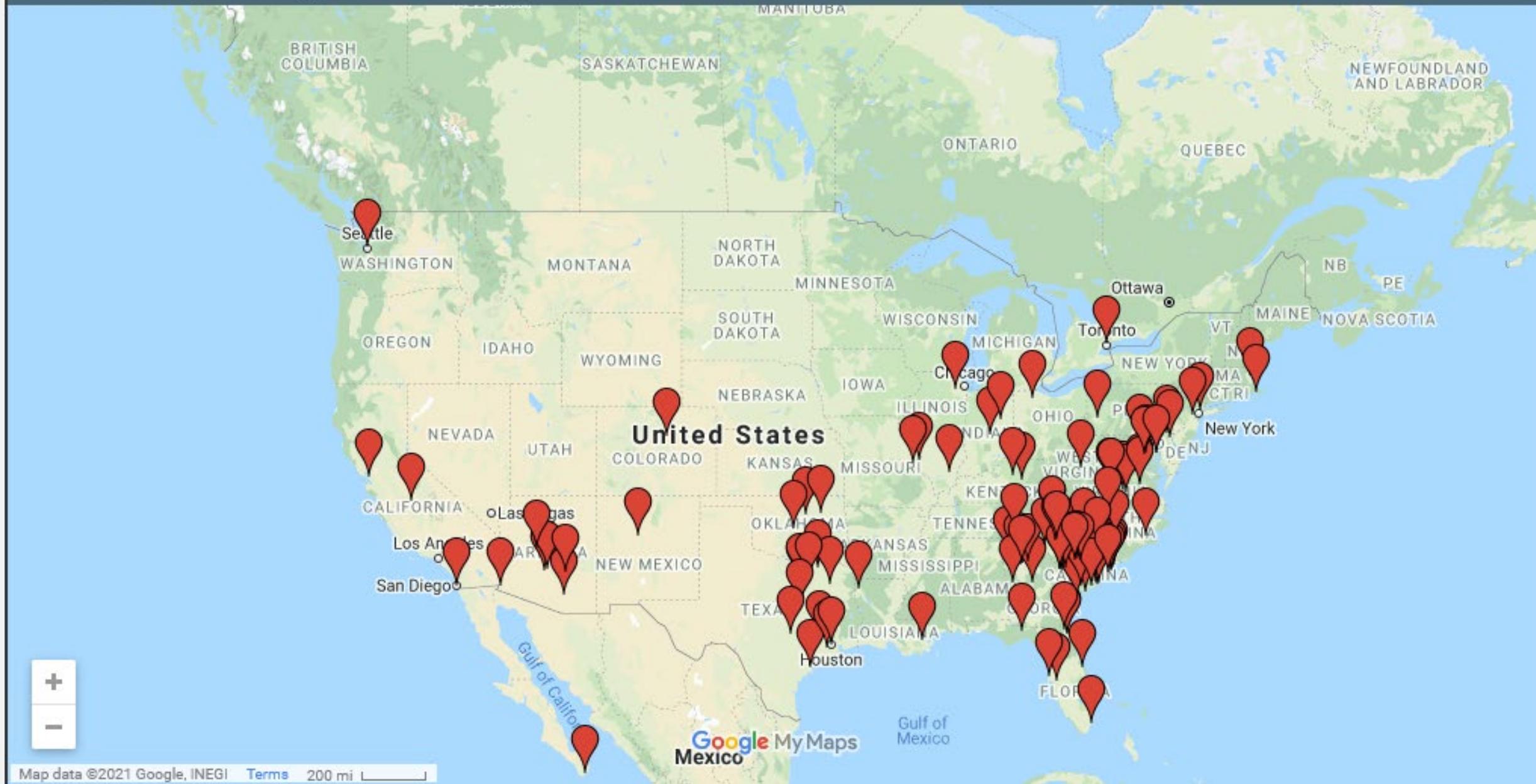
## CRINUM SPP

- Comes from Greek *krinon* meaning lily
- *Crinum americanum* (Southern Swamp Lily) – hardy in Zones 8-10
- *Crinum bulbispermum* (Orange River Lily) – hardy to Zone 6 with protection
- *Crinum xherbertii* (Milk and Wine Crinum Lily) – one of the most cold hardy
  - Cross was made in 1819 by Dean Herbert
- *Crinum xpowelli* (cross between *C. bulbispermum* and *C. moorei*) – very cold hardy
  - ‘Album’ white selection



## Where Our Crinum Lily Grow ★

**i** This map was created by a user. Learn how to create your own.



# PROCURING YOUR BULB

Buy from reputable nursery (not cheap)

Jenks Farmer (SC)

Southern Bulb Co (TX)

Brent and Becky's (VA)

Plant Delights (NC)

Buy one on eBay or Amazon (not exactly  
reputable but cheaper)

Dig up one from a friend or at an abandoned  
homeplace (cheap)



# CRINUM CULTIVATION

- Plant when bulb arrives, spring or summer
- Bury bulb up to the line that separates bulb from stem
- Bulbs tennis ball size and larger should flower the first year
- Full to part sun
- Even moisture preferred but is drought tolerant
- Plant it and don't move



- Do it!
- Range of leaf colors
  - Steel blue to apple green, bright yellow, and burgundy
- Range of sizes
  - 12" to 5-6'
- Pair the pot to the chosen Crinum
- Forget to water? No problem
- Good plants to pair include coleus, sweetpotato vine, daffodils, salvia, ferns

## CRINUM IN CONTAINERS



‘Queen Emma’



‘Menehune’



## SMALL GARDENS

Top out at 2-3' tall

- ‘Summer Nocturne’
- ‘Bayou Beauty’
- ‘White Fluff’
- ‘American Maid’
- ‘Pink Perfume’
- ‘Menehune’

‘West Indies Mini’ (aka *C. oliganthum*)  
smallest, leaves 6” long

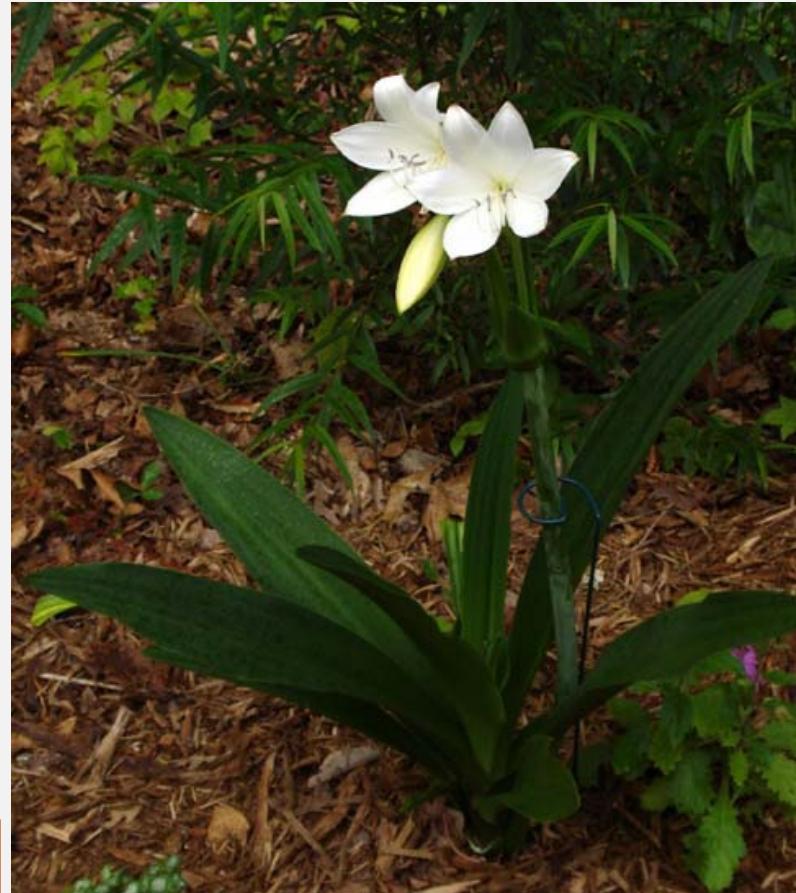
‘Li’l Suzy’ 18”

SEVERAL OF THESE ARE NOT HARDY  
AND WILL NEED WINTER PROTECTION

- Sure thing!
- Shade-tolerant species include
  - *Crinum moorei* prefers shade from hot afternoon sun, may go dormant during excessive heat
  - *Crinum jagus ratrayii* bold foliage
  - Asian Crinums
- Less flowers in shade
- Bold foliage
- Favorites for partial shade
  - 'Canoelands'
  - 'J.C. Harvey'
  - 'Menehune'
  - 'Mo 'Pon'
  - 'Walter Flory'
  - *Crinum erubescens*

## CRINUM IN SHADE

*C. jagus ratrayii*



Walter Flory



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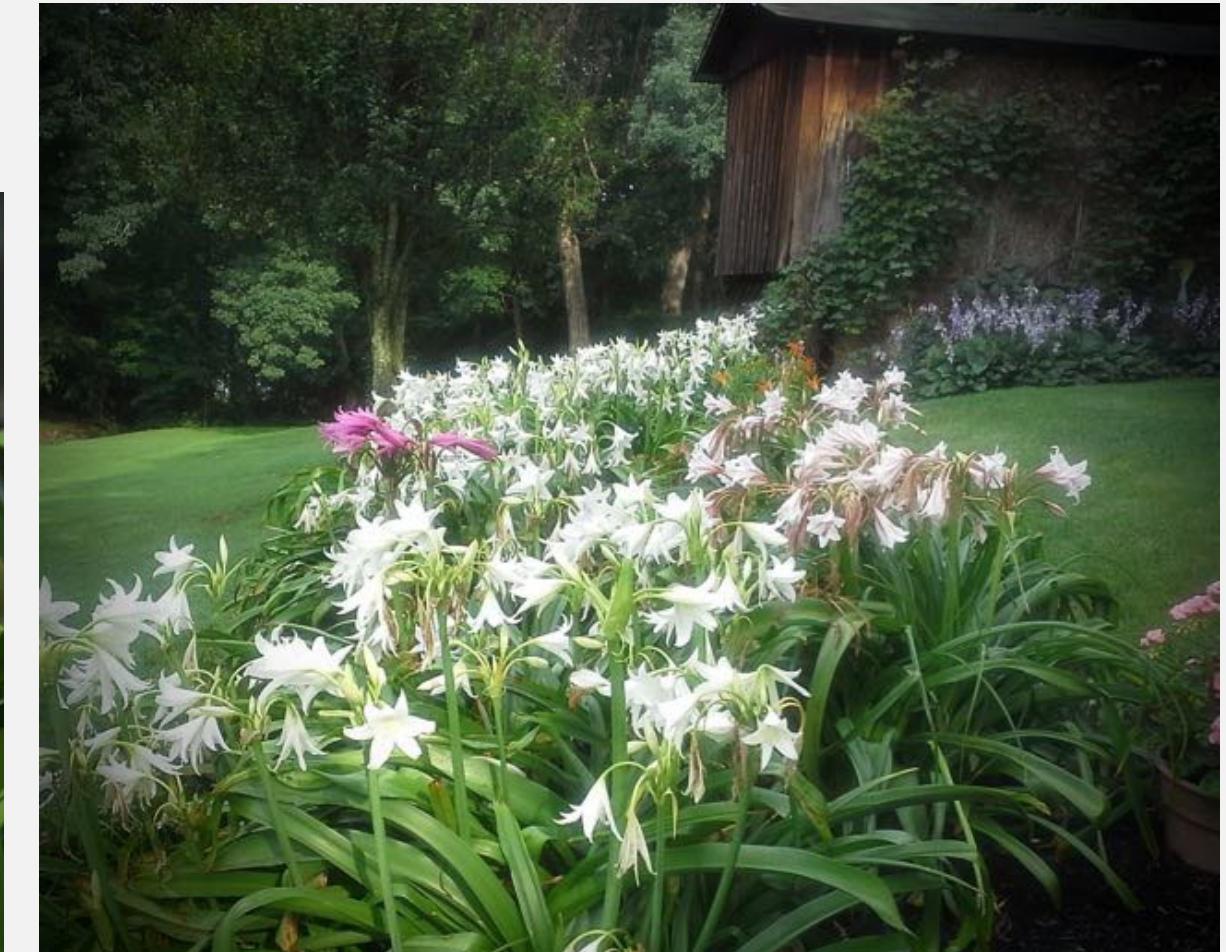


Cecil Houdyshel – hardy to Zone 5  
Leaves up to 3' long  
Flowers more than most on 60" stems



← Dorothy's ↓





**Crinum xpowellii 'Album'** – very cold hardy (MO & OH)  
Leaves up to 3' long  
Flowers on 4-5' stems



*C. bulbispermum*  
'Aurora Glorialis'



*C. 'Pink*  
*Flamingo'*





C. 'Pink Flamingo'

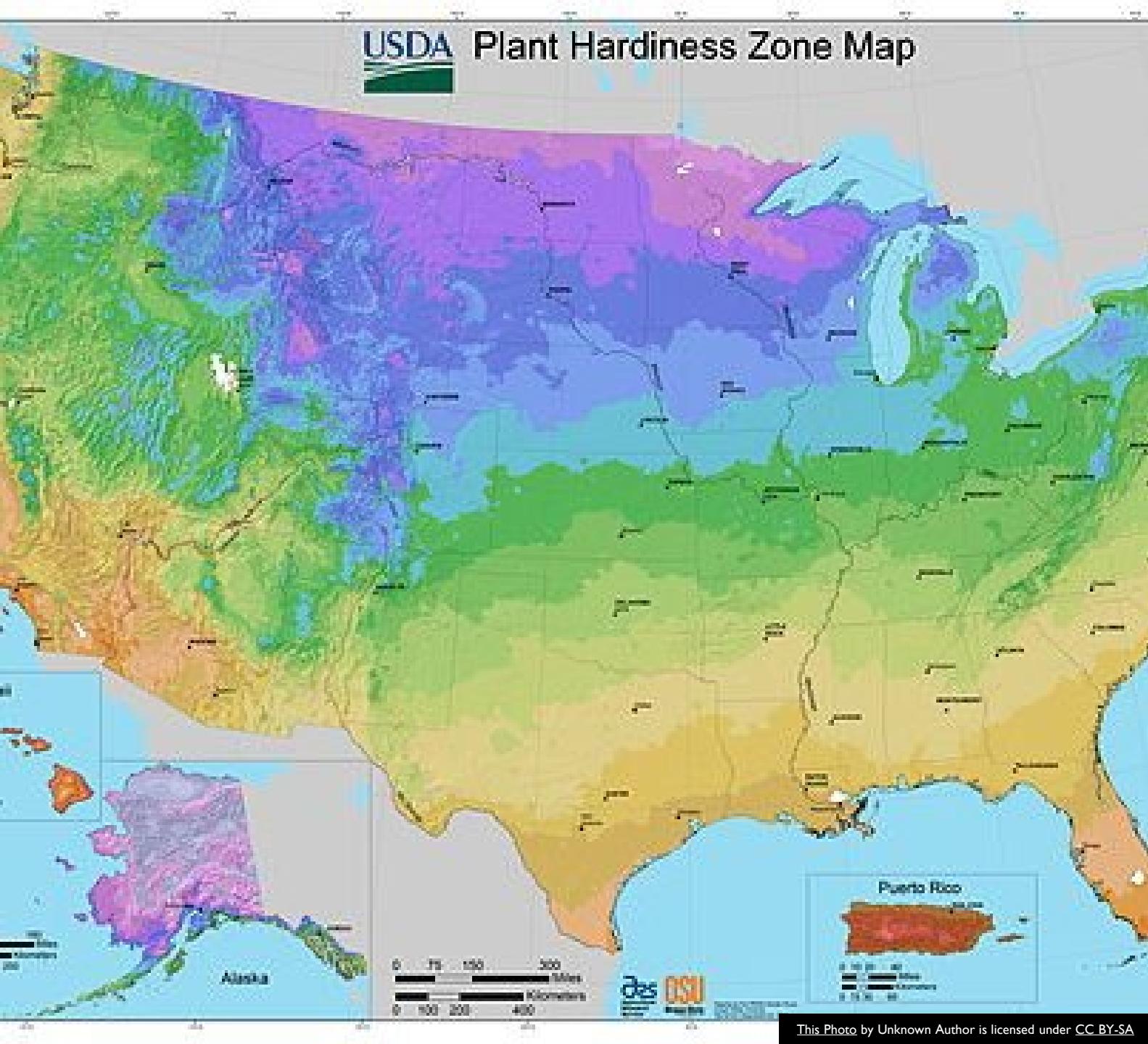
*Crinum  
bulbispernum*



GROW CRINUMS!

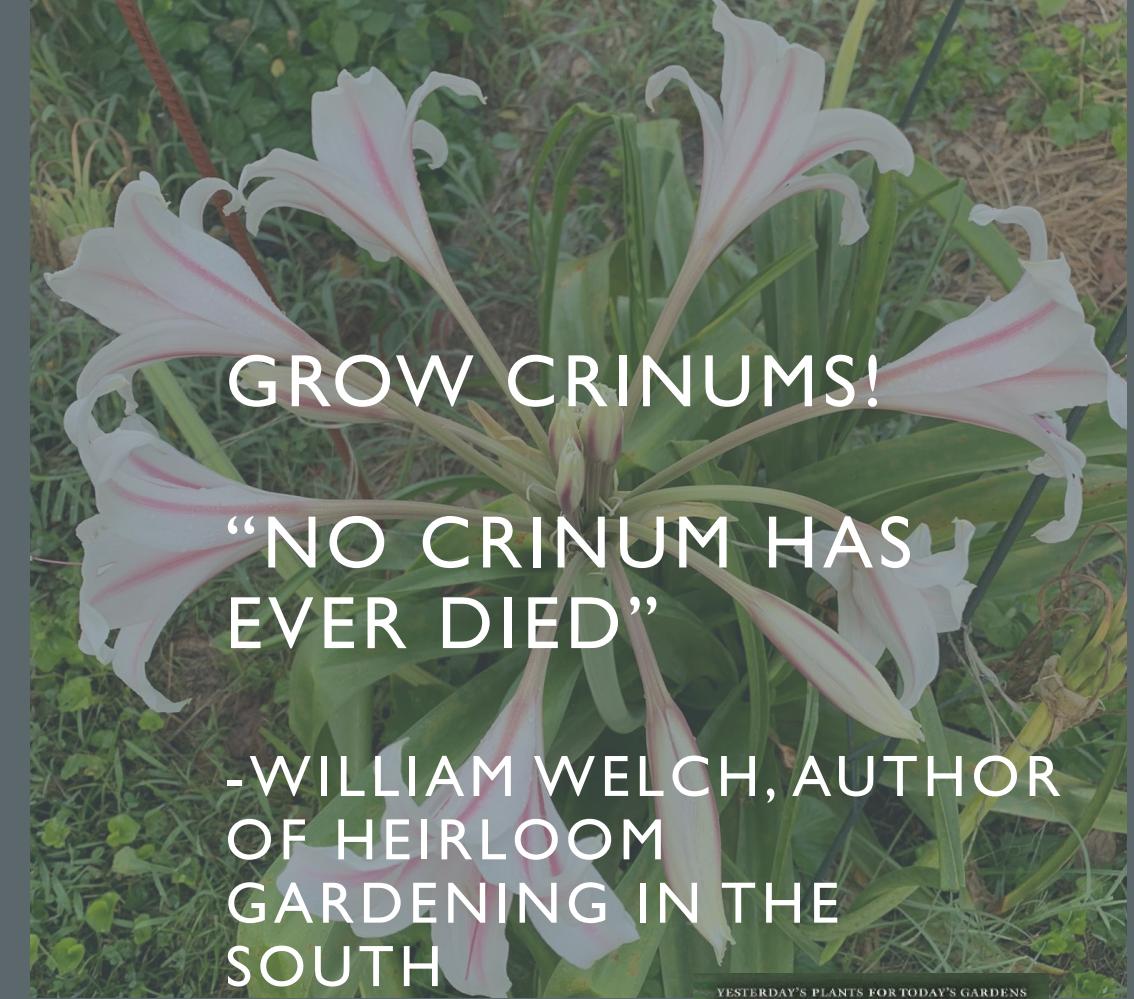
PAY ATTENTION  
TO HARDINESS  
RATINGS

MAY EARN AN  
EXTRA HALF OR  
WHOLE ZONE IF  
YOU MULCH  
LIBERALLY OVER  
THE WINTER





*Crinum x powelli*  
‘Cecil Houdyshel’



Questions?

