

Chlorophytum comosum

Scientific classification

Kingdom : Plantae
Clade : Angiosperms
Clade : Monocots
Order : Asparagales
Family : Asparagaceae
Subfamily : Agavoideae
Genus : *Chlorophytum*
Species : *C. comosum*



Chlorophytum comosum

Description :

Chlorophytum comosum grows to about 60 cm (24 in) tall. It has fleshy, **tuberous roots**, each about 5–10 cm (2–4 in) long. The long narrow leaves reach a length of 20–45 cm (8–18 in) and are around 6–25 millimetres (0.2–1.0 in) wide.

Flowers are produced in a long, branched **inflorescence**, which can reach a length of up to 75 cm (30 in) and eventually bends downwards to meet the earth. Flowers initially occur in clusters of 1–6 at intervals along the stem (**scape**) of the inflorescence. Each cluster is at the base of a **bract**, which ranges from 2–8 cm (0.8–3.1 in) in length, becoming smaller towards the end of the inflorescence. Most of the flowers which are produced initially die off, so that the inflorescences are relatively sparsely flowered.

Individual flowers are greenish-white, borne on stalks (**pedicels**) some 4–8 mm (0.2–0.3 in) long. Each flower has six triply veined **tepals** which are 6–9 mm (0.2–0.4 in) long and slightly hooded or boat-shaped at their tips. The **stamens** consist of a **pollen**-producing anther about 3.5 mm (0.1 in) long with a filament of similar length or slightly longer. The central **style** is 3–8 mm (0.1–0.3 in) long. Seeds are produced in a **capsule**, 3–8 mm (0.1–0.3 in) long, on stalks (pedicels) which lengthen to up to 12 mm (0.5 in).

The inflorescences carry **plantlets** at the tips of their branches, which eventually droop and touch the soil, developing **adventitious roots**. The stems (scapes) of the inflorescence are called "**stolons**" in some sources, but this term is more correctly used for stems which do not bear flowers and have roots at the **nodes**.

Medicinal uses:

In china traditional medicine, used for treating bronchitis, fractures and burns. It is used as an indoor plant, as a charm to protect the mother and child. Roots are dipped in a water bowl and drunk by mothers daily to protect the infant. Infusion is given to young babies as purgative.