

# STRELITZIA



- Strelitzia originates from South Africa and is also known as 'Bird of Paradise' because of the striking flowers, which can be either orange or white, dependent on the variety.
- It can be grown outside on a warm, sheltered patio, and is best in a pot rather than planted directly into the ground. The pot itself can be sunk into the soil, but you need to be able to lift the pot to take it inside over winter as it does not like temperatures below 10c.
- Given time, it will reach 2m tall, so can be grown as a feature plant in a warm conservatory, and as it likes a more humid atmosphere, it could even be kept in a bright bathroom.
- It will also happily grow as a houseplant all year round, and if you do this, it is a good idea to place the pot on a tray of pebbles and water, and mist it regularly, as this will help keep the atmosphere humid. In the autumn and winter months it is best to allow the compost to dry out more between waterings
- It can take 3 or 4 years for the plant to bloom, and this is only if it has enough light and is fed regularly. It will also flower better if it is slightly pot-bound. Wait until the roots are really pushing out of the pot before repotting, and then only move up a pot size, dramatic leaps don't suit this plant. Also, you should use a compost like John Innes 3 to get best results.