

Haemanthus coccineus

COMMON NAMES

Blood lily, blood flower

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Large subterranean bulb from which flower heads emerge February-March (in NZ). Each head of flowers is surrounded by scarlet bracts. Some weeks after flowering the large lark green fleshy leaves appear, two or three per bulb. Petioles red-spotted. The leaves die off in November-December.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

GENUS

Haemanthus

FAMILY

Amaryllidaceae

AUTHORITY

Haemanthus coccineus L.

SYNONYMS

Wikipedia cites the following synonyms:

Haemanthus callosus Burch. ex Baker;

Haemanthus carinatus L.;

Haemanthus coarctatus Jacq.;

Haemanthus concolor Herb.;

Haemanthus crassipes Jacq.;

Haemanthus hookerianus Herb.;

Haemanthus hyalocarpus Jacq.;

Haemanthus latifolius Salisb.;

Haemanthus moschatus Jacq.;

Haemanthus splendens Dinter;

Haemanthus tigrinus Jacq.;

Perihemia coarctata (Jacq.) Raf.

FRUITING

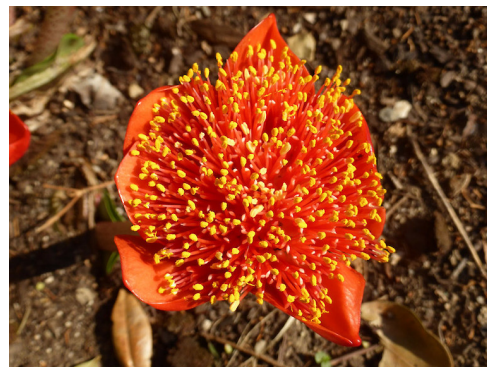
Translucent, fleshy berries are set occasionally in cultivation in NZ.

YEAR NATURALISED

2005, as garden discard

ORIGIN

South Africa, Namibia



Garden, Forres St, Whanganui. Flowers surrounded by scarlet bracts (spathe).
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 15/03/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Reddish markings on basal portion of leaf underside; garden, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 29/11/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Bulb division; seed

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

<http://www.plantzafrica.com/planthij/haemancoc.htm>

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Colin C Ogle, 13 Oct 2016

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haemanthus-coccineus/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026