**Clivia miniata** (J. Lindley) E.A. von Regel

*(Clivia sulphurea, Imantophyllum miniature, Vallota miniata)*

- Also known as Bush Lily, Clivia, Flame Lily, Kaffir Lily, or September Lily, this South African evergreen perennial herb can become essentially a small shrub substitute in tropical climates; unlike many other members of the Amaryllidaceae (alternately placed in the Liliaceae), *C. miniata* does not form bulb-like storage structures, but rather perenniates from thickened clump-forming rhizomes; although *C. miniata* can become a dieback herbaceous perennial on the northern margins of its effective range, it is most vigorous and reliable in areas where it is only infrequently killed back; this striking plant has thickened strap-like leaves arising almost directly from the rhizomes, peeling back alternately on either side of the plant to form two stacks of arching leaves; leaves are thick, dark lustrous green, and come to a blunt acute tip; the overall texture is pleasantly coarse and plants grow rather slowly to a height of 18” to 24”.
- Although the bold foliage is interesting, the primary attraction of Natal Lily is the hemispherical clusters of lily-like trumpet-shaped flowers produced on peduncles that arise to a height equal or slightly above the foliage; the six petaled flowers are available in several colors including white, cream, golden yellow, orange, or scarlet and are sometimes followed by stiff open cymes bearing bright red berries that are about a ½” long.
- A popular subtropical to tropical plant as accents in beds, borders, and rock gardens, *C. miniata* is most frequently grown in our region in containers for shady patios, porches, or under trees; partial shade or morning sun are best, whereas full sun tends to burn plants in our region; winter protection is required in much of our region and plants are fully hardy only in USDA hardness zones 10(9b) to 13; Natal Lilies are also grown in interiorscapes or as houseplants, but should not be used where children or pets might ingest them as all parts are reportedly poisonous.
- The genus name honors Queen Victoria's 19th century governess, Lady Charlotte Florentia Clive (Percy), the Duchess of Northumberland and the specific epithet refers to the cinnabar-red color of some of genotypes' flowers; the long-used common name of Kaffir Lily is now considered an ethnic slur in the plant's native land.

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