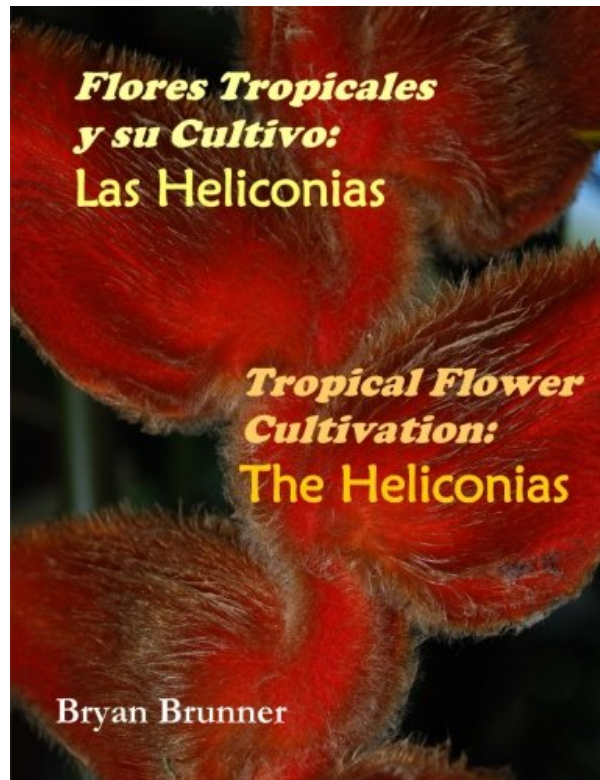
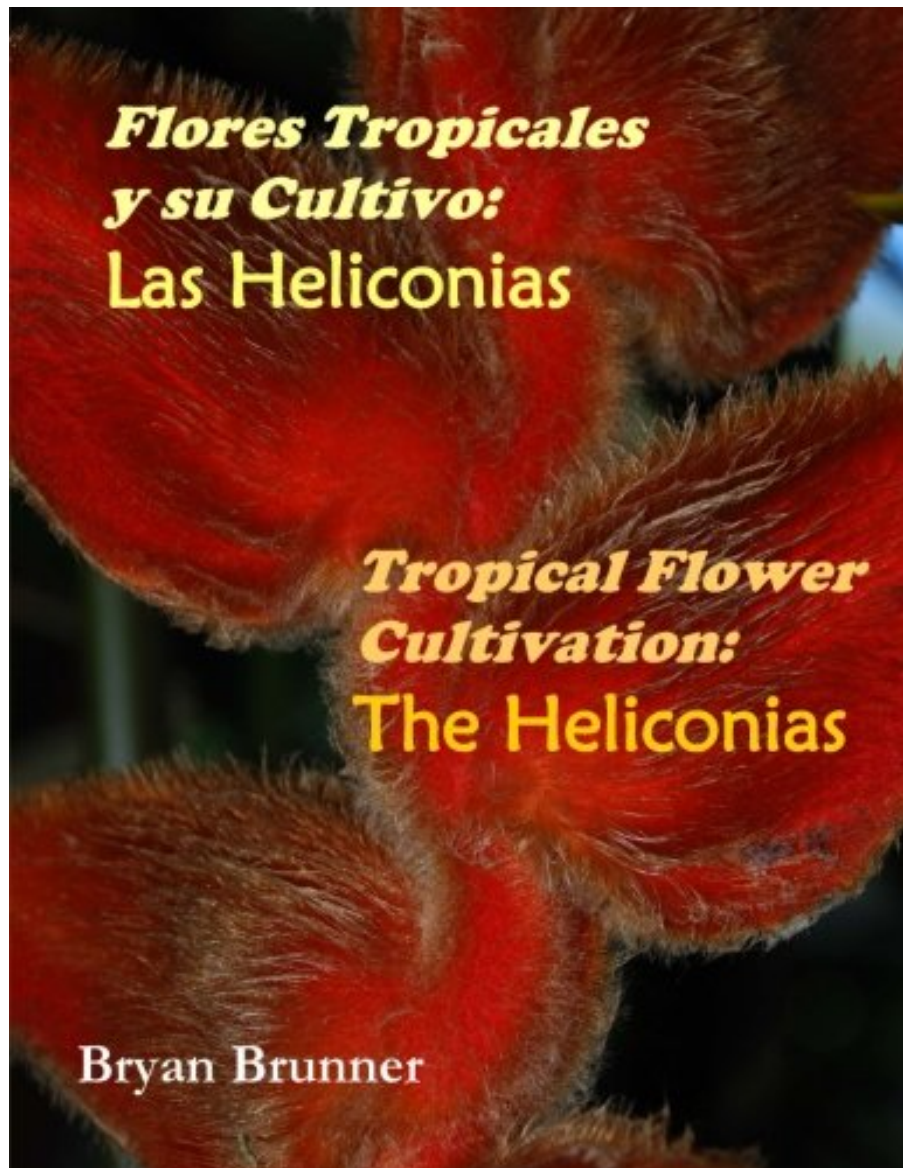


# TROPICAL FLOWER CULTIVATION: THE HELICONIAS BY BRYAN R. BRUNNER



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## **About the Author**

Bryan Brunner finished his undergraduate studies in plant science at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He completed a master's in tropical agriculture in the Department of Agronomy and Soils at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez and a doctorate in plant breeding and genetics at Michigan State University. He currently works as a horticultural researcher at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Puerto Rico in Lajas, and has held the position of Heliconia Society International Cultivar Registrar since 2003. He has authored or coauthored more than 50 scientific publications and three books in the areas of tropical fruits, ornamentals and organic agriculture.

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# **TROPICAL FLOWER CULTIVATION: THE HELICONIAS BY BRYAN R. BRUNNER PDF**

Continuing where the "Heliconia Bible" by Fred Berry and John Kress left off in 1991, this book offers a comprehensive review of heliconia cultivation, not only in the tropical garden but also in subtropical and even protected temperate regions. Completely bilingual (English/Spanish), it covers topics such as taxonomy, botany and ecology, propagation and culture, genetic improvement and cultivar nomenclature, cut flowers, other uses for heliconias, and more. Specialized tables present information such as valid and invalid Latin names, heliconia species distribution by country and altitude, light requirements and cold hardiness of different species, flower production, and postharvest vase life. Detailed descriptions and color photos describe 66 species and nearly 300 different heliconia cultivars currently growing in Puerto Rico, including 144 cultivars that have never before been described and 56 new cultivars that were selected on the island.

- Sales Rank: #1485666 in Books
- Published on: 2013-07-09
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x 1.01" w x 8.50" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 430 pages

## About the Author

Bryan Brunner finished his undergraduate studies in plant science at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He completed a master's in tropical agriculture in the Department of Agronomy and Soils at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez and a doctorate in plant breeding and genetics at Michigan State University. He currently works as a horticultural researcher at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Puerto Rico in Lajas, and has held the position of Heliconia Society International Cultivar Registrar since 2003. He has authored or coauthored more than 50 scientific publications and three books in the areas of tropical fruits, ornamentals and organic agriculture.

## Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Warning: Reading This Book May Cause Heliconia Fever.

By Martin Edward

Tropical Flower Cultivation: The Heliconias by Bryan Brunner (in English and Spanish) is a thoroughly-researched, well-organized and admirably-illustrated work that expands upon *Heliconia: An Identification Guide*, the landmark volume published by Berry and Kress in 1991. After a discussion of the genus *Heliconia*, Dr. Brunner provides detailed descriptions and excellent photos that document nearly 300 heliconia cultivars of the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and South America. A heliconia's size and flowering season as well as its requirements for moisture, light, soil, nutrients and temperature are important considerations in its proper placement and successful cultivation in a garden or landscape. You will find that information and more in *The Heliconias*.

Let me emphasize the "and more", as the details are extensive and meticulous. Brunner's book quickly answered my beginner's questions: "What's the difference between *H. griggsiana* 'Full Moon' and *H. griggsiana* 'Harvest Moon'?" And: "What's the difference between *H. chartacea* 'Surinam Gold' and *H. chartacea* 'Meeana Yellow'?" As well, I was able to correct the nomenclature of more than two dozen cultivars on my farm -- actually more than a hundred cultivars, if you count changing the disallowed "cv." abbreviation to single quotes.

Clearly, this tome is destined to become an invaluable reference for designers of tropical gardens -- I only wish I had it three years ago, when I started to plant rhizomes on my property. Need a low heliconia? Consult this authoritative guide to learn about *H. stricta* 'Dwarf Jamaican'. It's only 2.2 feet (66 cm) high on average. Swampy conditions? How about *H. standleyi*? It's well-adapted to wet areas. Not in a tropical climate? Maybe a *H. bihai* or *H. bihai* x *H. caribaea*. They're good down to freezing.

And yet, as vital as the discussion of the genus *Heliconia*, its species and cultivars is to any serious heliconia aficionado, *The Heliconias* is not just a technical treatise, even though it excels in that regard. The abundance of remarkable photos (which document each of the nearly 300 cultivars) will delight and inspire every plant lover. Hence my warning: "Reading This Book May Cause Heliconia Fever."

-- Martin Haggland, Yuquiyu Farm, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico ([...])

Note: This review originally appeared in the *Heliconia Society International Bulletin*, Vol. 19, No. 3, September 2013, pg. 14.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Tropical Flower Cultivation - the Heliconias

By R Alan Criley

While the title accurately reflects the *Heliconia* focus, anyone looking for information on cultivation of other tropical flowers is out of luck. The author is a member of the *Heliconia Society International* and maintains their registry of cultivars. The book is in both Spanish and English, covers the geography of where various species originated, and describes various cultivars that have been selected in these species. About one-quarter of the book describes historical aspects, cultural practices, handling and commercialization, pests, and uses of heliconias. There are 10 tables that provide a comprehensive overview of geographic distribution, natural history, and environmental requirements and tolerances (three on cold tolerances alone). Color photos illustrate the species and many cultivars as well as horticultural practices, uses, and early history. There are over 300 references cited and an index to species and important terms. The book can be recommended as a well-designed volume that is factual and informative.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

must have for Tropical Gardeners

By j. hintze

Fantastically useful book for identifying *Heliconia* species and cultivars - right up to date, excellent work. Brunner has the expertise and experience to be considered the authority on this Genus.

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