

*Anthurium andraeanum*

[Synonyms : *Anthurium venustum*]

**FLAMINGO FLOWER** is an evergreen perennial. Native to Middle and South America (particularly Colombia) it has glossy red or pink petal-like leaf (spathe) shielding a spike (spadix) covered in minute whitish, yellowish, or pinkish flowers.

It is also known as *Andrenflamingokukka* (Finnish), Andre's flamingo plant, Anthurium, *Anturio* (Spanish), *Antúrium Andraeanovo* (Slovak), Flamingo lily, Flamingo plant, *Nawoa* (Thai), Oilcloth flower, Painter's palette, *Rosenkalla* (Swedish), Tail flower, and *Toulitka Andreova* (Czech).

Warning – all parts are poisonous. Internally they can cause gastroenteritis and externally they can cause dermatitis and eye irritation.

*Andraeanum* commemorates a French horticulturist and landscape architect, Édouard François André (1840-1911), who was especially noted for his designs of public spaces and private parks, primarily in Europe. In 1860 (he was only 20) he became *Jardinier Principal* (Head Gardener) of Paris and in this capacity, as a member of a team, was responsible in that decade for establishing the boulevards and parks of Paris familiar to this day, notably by him *Jardins des Tuileries* and *Parc des Buttes-Chaumont*. In 1866 he won an international competition for the design of Sefton Park, Liverpool and this was the forerunner of many European commissions from Russia to Madeira. In addition to those above, authorities note especially *Villa Borghese*, Weldheim Garden, parks and gardens in Luxembourg and Monte Carlo, Funchal Garden on Madeira and Palanga Botanical Park in Lithuania. The French Government sent him to South America in 1875 where he collected 3400 plant specimens. His private garden included an experimental nursery which benefited from his horticultural knowledge and he appears to have displayed particular interest in Bromeliads. He also found time to develop a large herbarium. Founded in 1873/74 the École d'Horticulture de Versailles (the predecessor of École Nationale Supérieure d'Horticulture) boasted André as its first professor in 1892. His published works include *L'Art des Jardins* which is said to encapsulate his landscaping principles.