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Heliconia psittacorum

[Synonyms : *Bihai psittacorum*, *Heliconia cannoidea*, *Heliconia psittacorum* var. *rhizomatosa*]

PARROT'S PLANTAIN is an evergreen perennial. Native to tropical America, south-eastern Asia and to Polynesia, it has huge green leaves borne on trunk-like leaf-stalks.

It is also known as Japanese canna, Parakeetflower, Parrot's beak heliconia, Parrot's flower, Wild banana, and Wild plantain.

The few small, purple flowers are attractive to humming birds.

Psittacorum is derived from Greek *psittacin-* (parrot) component or Latin *psittaci* (parrot) meaning 'of parrots'.