Caladiums (Caladium ×hortulanum Birdsey, Araceae Juss.) can be grown in containers or planted in the landscape as accent and border plants (Evans et al., 1992). They are valued for their long-lasting colorful foliage. Most of the commercially available caladium plants are forced from tubers. Florida growers supply essentially all the caladium tubers used in the United States and some 40 countries in the world for the production of pot plants and direct planting in the landscapes. New cultivar introductions are important not only to the Florida caladium industry but also to the greenhouse, nursery, and landscape industries.

Commercial caladium cultivars are often grouped into eight categories based on their leaf type and impact color [fancy white, red, pink, and novelty, and lance (or strap) white, red, pink, and novelty] (Bell et al., 1998). Recent surveys of the Florida caladium industry indicated that 51 caladium cultivars were planted in 2013 with two or more acres planted per cultivar (Deng et al., 2008; Z. Deng, unpublished data). Among the white lance-leaved cultivar groups are ‘Florida White Ruffles’ and ‘White Wing’. ‘Florida White Ruffles’ was released by the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences caladium breeding program (Deng et al., 2002). ‘White Wing’ has been in commercial production for many years and was ranked 3rd among all lance-leaved cultivars in the acreage planted in 2013 (14.3 acres). ‘Icicle’ is a new addition to the white lance leaf cultivar group, and, here, we report its origin, tuber yield potential, plant performance in containers and landscapes, and resistance to Fisserarium tuber rot, a major fungal disease of caladium that has caused substantial economic losses to the Florida caladium industry (Goktepe et al., 2007).

**Origin**

‘Icicle’ (Fig. 1) originated from a cross between ‘Candidum’ and ‘Gingerland’ that was made in Bradenton, FL, in Fall 2004. Both parents are nonpatented commercial cultivars. Reportedly, ‘Candidum’ was developed by Alfred Bleu, a French pioneer of caladium hybridization, around 1880 (Hayward, 1950). The ancestry of ‘Candidum’ and ‘Gingerland’ is unknown. First asexual propagation of ‘Icicle’ occurred in Balm, FL, in Spring 2006, and since then, it has been asexually propagated through tuber division for 10 generations. Plant, foliar, and growth characteristics of ‘Icicle’ have been stable and consistent during asexual propagation.

**Description**

Description of color (e.g., RHS 200B) for plant parts was based on comparison with the Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart (Royal Horticultural Society, 1986). Plants used for color description were grown from de-eyed, jumbo-sized (or equivalent) tubers (two per container) in 20.3-cm containers in a shaded greenhouse with ±30% light exclusion. The containers were filled with the potting mix Fafard 3B (Conrad Fafard Inc., Agawam, MA) amended with the commercial controlled release fertilizer Osmocote® (15N–3.9P–10K, 5–6 months; Scotts Co., Marysville, OH) at the rate of 4.3 kg·m⁻³. Plants of ‘Icicle’ are ±29 cm tall and 60 cm wide and produce upright, outwardly arching leaves. Mature leaves have an average size of 25 cm (length) × 17.5 cm (width). Leaves are sagittate-cordate, 23–27 cm long and 16.5–18.5 cm wide, and slightly undulate with white (RHS 155D) penniform venation. The upper surface has green (RHS 137A) margins, up to 10 mm wide, bordering the entire leaf except for the basal leaf valley formed by the two lobes where there may be a 1–2-mm-wide red–purple (RHS 60A) band or spot. The central vein is white (RHS 155D) and primary veins are yellow–green (RHS 145C). Intervenial leaf areas are white (RHS 155D) except for the areas near the margins where irregular grayed green (RHS 191C) motting and blotching of green (RHS 137A) are present. The abaxial surface has grayed green (RHS 191A) margins, up to 10 mm wide, and a white (RHS 155D) center with blotching of green (RHS 137A) toward the margins. The central vein is white (RHS 155A) and primary veins are white (RHS 155A) with a thin line of yellow–green (144B) running down in the center. Petioles are ±5 mm and yellow–green (RHS 144D) at the apex, but the color diffuses into grayed green (RHS 195A) with blotching of black (RHS 202A) near the base, which is ±9 mm in diameter. Jumbo-sized tubers are multi-segmented, bearing five to nine dominant buds. Tuber surfaces are brown (RHS 200C), with the cortical area being yellow (RHS 10C).

**Tuber Yield Potential**

‘Icicle’ was evaluated for tuber production and plant performance at the GCREC in Balm, FL, in 2010 and 2014. The soil was EauGallie fine sand with about 1% organic matter and a pH between 6.2 and 7.4. Caladium plants were grown in the field using a plastic-mulched raised-bed system. In the 2010 season, ground beds (81 cm wide and 20 cm high) were fumigated on 21 Mar. with a mixture of 80% methyl bromide and 20% chloropicrin (by volume) at 196 kg·ha⁻¹. Caladium seed tubers were treated in hot...
Table 1. Weight, marketable number, production index, and grade distribution of tubers produced by ‘Icicle’ and two commercial caladium cultivars (checks) in experimental field plots (2010 and 2014). Values presented are means of three plots with 21 propagules planted in a plot of 0.8 m² in 2010 or with 30 propagules planted in a plot of 1.2 m² in 2014.

| Cultivar              | Tuber Weight (kg) | Tuber Marketable (no.) | Production index | Mammoth | Jumbo | No. 1 | No. 2 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Icicle                | 2.29 a            | 28.0 NS                | 81.3 a           | 9.7 a   | 34.8 NS | 39.1 NS | 16.3 NS |
| Florida White Ruffles | 1.15 b            | 19.0                    | 41.7 b           | 0.0 b   | 20.6    | 49.4    | 30.0    |
| P value               | 0.002             | 0.184                  | 0.023            | 0.040   | 0.057   | 0.356   | 0.128   |
| Icicle                | 1.82 NS           | 36.3 NS                 | 71.3 NS          | 14.1 NS | 52.7 NS | 33.1 NS | 26.3    |
| White Wing            | 1.99              | 29.7                    | 62.3             | 16.9    | 56.8    | 26.3    |         |
| P value               | 0.496             | 0.225                  | 0.634            | 0.910   | 0.540   | 0.427   |         |

The production index is an indicator of economic value of the tubers harvested per plot and is calculated as $N (No. 1s) + 2N (No. 1s) + 4N (Jumbos) + 6N (Mammoths) + 8N (Super Mammoths), where $N$ = number of tubers in each grade. Tubers graded by maximum diameter: No. 2 (2.5–3.8 cm), No. 1 (3.8–6.4 cm), Jumbo (6.4–8.9 cm), Mammoth (8.9–11.4 cm), and Super Mammoth (11.4 cm). Tuber grade distribution data were transformed using the arcsine function in Excel [\[asin(sqrt(tuber grade distribution in percentage/100))\]].

NS Not significantly different at $P < 0.05$.

Table 2. Days to sprout, plant height (cm), plant width (cm), leaf number, leaf size (cm), number of blooms (inflorescences), and plant quality of ‘Icicle’ and two commercial caladium cultivars (checks) grown from No. 1 tubers in 11.4-cm containers in a shaded glasshouse in Balm, FL (2012). Values represent the means of seven plants produced from intact or de-eyed No. 1 (3.8–6.4 cm in diameter) tubers planted individually per container.

| Cultivar     | Days to sprout | Plant ht (cm) | Plant width (cm) | Leaves (no.) | Leaf length (cm) | Leaf width (cm) | Blooms (no.) | Quality rating |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
|              | Intact         | De-eye        | Intact           | De-eye       | Intact           | De-eye         | Intact       | Intact        |
| Icicle       | 19.0 b         | 20.4 b        | 26.1 a           | 24.0 a       | 39.6 NS          | 36.9 NS        | 15.4 a       | 15.2 a        | 9.7 a         | 0.7 b         | 0.0 NS        | 4.0 a         | 4.6 NS        |
| Florida White Ruffles | 27.9 a       | 26.0 a        | 22.3 b           | 17.6 c       | 35.1             | 31.6           | 16.5 b       | 12.6 b        | 9.4 c         | 6.8 b         | 0.4 b         | 3.2 b         | 4.2          |
| White Wing   | 25.4 a         | 27.1 a        | 28.7 a           | 28.7 a       | 39.4             | 37.6           | 13.3 b       | 21.7 a        | 16.4 a        | 12.9 b        | 7.8 b         | 1.7 a         | 0.3          |
| P value      | <0.001         | 0.001         | <0.001           | <0.001       | 0.264            | 0.616          | <0.001       | <0.001        | 0.007         | 0.020         | 0.202         | 0.250         | 0.157         |

NS Not significantly different at $P < 0.05$.

Fig. 2. Plants of ‘Icicle’ forced in small containers. One intact (left) and one de-eyed (right) No. 1 tuber (3.6–6.4 cm in diameter) were planted in 12.7-cm square containers on 13 Apr. 2012; plants were grown in a shaded greenhouse and the photo was taken by G. Bowman on 8 June 2012.

2014 season, ‘Icicle’ and ‘White Wing’ did not show significant differences in tuber weight, marketable number, and production index (Table 1). Also, there were no significant differences in tuber grade distribution between ‘Icicle’ and ‘Florida White Ruffles’ or ‘White Wing’ (Table 1). The primary grade of their tubers was the No. 1.

**Container Trials**

The suitability of ‘Icicle’ for container plant production was evaluated by forcing tubers in 11.4-cm containers (diameter) in
Spring 2012, following the protocol of Harbaugh and Tjia (1985). Number 1–sized tubers were planted on 13 Apr. in a commercial potting mix (Fafard 3B) amended with Osmocote® fertilizer (15N–3.9P–10K, 5–6 months) at 4.3 kg·m⁻²; plants were grown in a greenhouse with ≥30% light exclusion. Temperatures in the greenhouse ranged from 16 °C (night) to 30 °C (day). Potted plants were arranged on metal benches in the greenhouse in a randomized complete block design with seven replications. Plant height, plant number, width of leaves, and foliar characteristics were recorded on 11 June 2012, about 8 weeks after planting. Quality of the potted caladium plants was rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 = very poor, unattractive, and totally unacceptable as potted plants with few leaves and 5 = very attractive, full plants with a symmetrical shape, an appropriate height, and many bright, colorful leaves.

Intact tubers of ‘Icicle’ sprouted 19 d after planting, approximately 6–9 d earlier than those of ‘Florida White Ruffles’ or ‘White Wing’ (Table 2). Plants of ‘Icicle’ from the intact tubers (Fig. 2) had an average height and width of 26.1 and 39.6 cm, 3.8 cm taller than plants of ‘Florida White Ruffles’ but similar to plants of ‘White Wing’ in height and width (Table 2). Plants of ‘Icicle’ produced much longer (by 36.4%) and wider (by 61.7%) leaves than plants of ‘Florida White Ruffles’. The former also received a higher quality rating (4.0 vs. 3.2). Plants of ‘Icicle’ produced 75.9% more leaves than ‘White Wing’, and leaves were 2.3-cm wider than leaves of ‘White Wing’. Plants of ‘Icicle’ were of much higher quality than those of ‘White Wing’ (4.0 vs. 2.7) (Table 2).

De-eyed tubers of ‘Icicle’ sprouted in approximately 20 d after planting and 5–7 d earlier than ‘Florida White Ruffles’ or ‘White Wing’ (Table 2). On average, plants of ‘Icicle’ forced from de-eyed tubers (Fig. 2) were 24.0 cm high and 36.9 cm wide, which were intermediate between ‘Florida White Ruffles’ and ‘White Wing’. De-eyed ‘Icicle’ plants were significantly different from de-eyed ‘Florida White Ruffles’ in that the former had 22.2% longer and 42.6% wider leaves. De-eyed ‘Icicle’ plants were distant from ‘White Wing’ in that the former produced almost 1-fold more leaves than the latter.

### Landscape Performance

The landscape performance of ‘Icicle’ was evaluated in 2010 and 2014, on the same plots used for evaluating tuber production. A scale of 1 to 5 was used with 1 being very poor (few leaves and lack of vigor) and 5 being excellent (full plants, numerous leaves, and bright color display). Leaf sunburn tolerance was evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very susceptible to sunburn (leaves having numerous sun-damaged areas or holes) and 5 being resistant to sunburn (no visible sun-damaged areas). Evaluations of plant performance and sunburn tolerance were carried out in July, Aug., Sept., and Oct. 2010, and July, Aug., Sept., and Oct. 2014. 

| Cultivar          | Plant ht (cm)  | Leaf number | Leaf length (cm) | Leaf width (cm) |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 'Icicle'           | 37.2 a         | 32.1 NS     | 22.1 a'          | 12.6 a          |
| 'Florida White Ruffles' | 15.5 b       | 32.3        | 13.9 b           | 6.0 b           |
| P value            | 0.009          | 0.966       | 0.032            | 0.014           |
| 'Icicle'           | 23.6 NS        | 20.3 a'     | 18.9 NS          | 11.2 NS         |
| 'White Wing'       | 28.5           | 9.8 b       | 20.0             | 11.5            |
| P value            | 0.321          | 0.011       | 0.562            | 0.826           |

### Table 4. Plant performance ratings of ‘Icicle’ and two commercial caladium cultivars grown from 2.5-cm tuber propagules in ground beds in full sun in Balm, FL (2010 and 2014). Performance ratings are means of three plots based on whole plot evaluation in each evaluation.

| Cultivar          | July  | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | July  | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| 'Icicle'           | 2010  | 2010 | 2010  | 2010 | 2014  | 2014 | 2014  | 2014 |
| 'Florida White Ruffles' | 2.3 NS | 3.9 a' | 4.3 a | 4.5 a | 3.0 NS| 3.5 NS| 3.8 NS| 3.7 NS|
| 'White Wing'       | —     | —    | —     | —    | 3.2   | 3.3  | 3.3   | 3.2  |
| P value            | 0.094 | 0.006| 0.003 | 0.000| 0.667 | 0.184| 0.369 | 0.074|

### Table 5. Sunburn tolerance of ‘Icicle’ and two commercial caladium cultivars grown from 2.5-cm tuber propagules in ground beds in full sun in Balm, FL (2010 and 2014). Sunburn tolerance ratings are means of three plots based on whole plot evaluation in each evaluation.

| Cultivar          | July  | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | July  | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| 'Icicle'           | 2010  | 2010 | 2010  | 2010 | 2014  | 2014 | 2014  | 2014 |
| 'Florida White Ruffles' | 3.3 NS | 3.8  | 3.3 b | 3.3  | 3.4   | 3.4  | 3.3   | 3.3  |
| 'White Wing'       | 0.742 | 0.423| 0.020 | 0.478| 0.094 | 0.230| 0.478 | 0.184|

### Table 6. Lesion diameters (mm) on tuber halves of ‘Icicle’ and five commercial caladium cultivars inoculated with three isolates of Fusarium solani (13-341, 05-257, and 05-20) in two experiments in 2013.

| Cultivar          | F. solani isolates in Expt. 1 | F. solani isolates in Expt. 2 | Avg lesion diam (mm) |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 'Icicle'           | 5.8 NS                        | 4.7 NS                        | 5.5 bc              |
| 'Candidum'         | 6.4 NS                        | 5.0 b'                        | 5.0 bc              |
| 'White Christmas'  | 6.4 NS                        | 4.7                            | 4.4 bc              |
| 'Red Flash'        | 6.0                            | 6.5                            | 6.5                 |
| 'Carolyn Whitworth' | 7.6                          | 9.5                            | 6.7                 |
| 'Freida Hemple'    | 7.0                            | 9.7                            | 13.0 a              |
| P value            | 0.563                         | 0.280                         | 0.003               |

aMean separation within columns by the least significant difference test at P < 0.05.
bBased on comparison with five commercial caladium cultivars included in the experiments.
cThe resistance levels of these commercial cultivars were reported by Goktepe et al. (2007).
dNot significantly different at P < 0.05.
2014. Plant height, number of leaves per plant, and leaf size (maximum length and width) were measured on three plants arbitrarily chosen from each plot, approximately 4 months after planting.

Plants of ‘Icicle’ grown in the ground beds had an average height of 30.4 cm, 4.9 cm taller than that of ‘Florida White Ruffles’ (Table 3). Leaves of ‘Icicle’ were 20.5 cm long and 11.9 wide, significantly longer and wider than the leaves of ‘Florida White Ruffles’ (13.9 × 6.0 cm). Plants of ‘Icicle’ had an average of 26.2 leaves per plant, approximately 1.6 times more than the number of leaves ‘White Wing’ plants produced (Table 3).

‘Icicle’ performed relatively well in both 2010 and 2014 growing seasons, with performance ratings between 2.9 and 4.5 in 2010 and between 3.0 and 3.8 in 2014 (Table 4). Its performance ratings were significantly higher than those of ‘Florida White Ruffles’ (2.3–2.8) in three evaluations in 2010. ‘Icicle’ showed a moderate level of sunburn tolerance in the 2010 and 2014 growing seasons, with sunburn tolerance ratings between 2.6 and 3.9 (Table 5). Its sunburn tolerance ratings were higher than those of ‘Florida White Ruffles’ (3.3–3.8) in one evaluation but lower than those of ‘White Wing’ (3.3–4.3) in one evaluation.

Resistance to Fusarium Tuber Rots

‘Icicle’ was compared with selected caladium cultivars regarding its susceptibility to Fusarium tuber rot. Caladium tubers of ‘Icicle’ and commercial cultivars Candidum, Carolyn Whorton, Freida Hemple, Red Flash, and White Christmas were surface-sterilized, cut in half, and inoculated with Fusarium solani by inserting two pieces of Fusarium-colonized carnation leaf segments (Goktepe et al., 2007). Inoculated tuber halves were placed inside egg cartons and incubated at 18 °C under 100% relative humidity. Tubers were screened with three highly aggressive F. solani isolates (13-341, 05-20, and 05-527), and the diameter of the lesion caused by Fusarium was measured 2 weeks after inoculation. ‘Candidum’ (resistant), ‘Carolyn Whorton’ (highly susceptible), ‘Freida Hemple’ (highly susceptible), ‘Red Flash’ (moderately resistant), and ‘White Christmas’ (resistant) were evaluated previously and were placed into three categories (resistant, moderately resistant, or highly susceptible) (Goktepe et al., 2007). Based on two experiments conducted in 2013 for Fusarium tuber rot, ‘Icicle’ was considered resistant to moderately resistant to Fusarium tuber rot (Table 6).

Recommendation

‘Icicle’ is characterized by wide lance leaves with a large white center surrounded by green margins. It is expected to produce high-quality pot plants without de-eyeing and perform well in shady landscapes. Tubers of ‘Icicle’ can sprout 5–9 d earlier than ‘Florida White Ruffles’ and ‘White Wing’, which may result in a shorter production cycle to greenhouse growers. ‘Icicle’ has shown higher tuber yield potential than ‘Florida White Ruffles’.

Availability

‘Icicle’ was released under the name ‘UF-R1022’. Plant patent has been applied for ‘Icicle’ by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. Commercial production of this cultivar is required to have licensing agreements with the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443. Information on tuber availability and licensing agreements can be obtained from the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. (http://www.ffsp.net/).

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