INTRODUCTION

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The bird-of-paradise ***Strelitzia reginae***, or crane flower, Gell piesang as it is sometimes known, is native to the southern and eastern parts of the Cape province and northen Natal in South Africa, where it grows wild on river banks and in scrub clearings in coastal areas. It was first introduced into Britain in 1773 by Sir Joseph Banks, then the unofficial director of the Royal Gardens at Kew (as they were known at that time). He named the exotic-looking plant Strelitzia in honour of Queen Charlotte, wife of George III and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who lived at Kew for many years.

Description: Strelitzia reginae

Family: **Strelitziaceae** is a bold structural plant, which forms large evergreen clumps of stiff leaves growing up from the base. The grey-green banana-like leaves grow about 1.5 m in height and the flowers stand above the foliage at the tips of long stalks. Mature plants are very floriferous with flowers in autumn, winter and spring. The hard, beak-like sheath from which the flower emerges, is called the spathe. This is placed at right angles to the stem, which gives it the appearance of a bird's head. The flowers, which emerge one at a time from the spathe, consist of 3 brilliant orange sepals and 3 bright blue petals. Two of the blue petals are joined together to form an arrow-like nectary.

Relatively easy to grow, plants do well in full sun to semi shade, but will tolerate lower light if gradually acclimated. Blooms are long lasting and appear sporadicly.

The aim of this study is getting a very long season of flowering. We notice an alternative concept for why we have peaks and valleys of production include competition between developing flower buds and the very undeveloped meristems that will become future flower stalks we still believe that there are a high light intensity stress and temperature stress through spring and Summer months in Egypt (hot, dry part of the year) that causes the flower bud abortion we have some 3, 5, 7and 8 years – old plants.

Egypt's Strelitzia production is mainly during the cooler winter months with very little during their hot summers the question about how to make the plants bloom, 1'd have to be equivocal you do need plants old enough to flower. We have the opportunitly to try plants at different ages and exposures to different shade levels and different growth regulators to get sporadic blooming.

The objectives of this study were to investigate the effect of different shade levels, sun light and three different growth regulators on growth and flowering of ***strelitzia reginae Ait*** plants.