

## Planting and Care Instructions Calla's for Pot Culture

Information to help you be more successful with our Calla's

### Upon arrival

Tubers should always be stored dry at 50 to 65 F. The storage room should be well ventilated. Never expose calla lilies to low temperatures, these tubers are very sensitive to frost and temperatures lower than 35F. Always check tubers regularly for soft rot (Erwinia), this is a fast spreading disease that is extremely hard to control. No fungicides have been effective and therefore it is important to store tubers dry and well ventilated, the only way to slow down spreading of this disease in storage. Always be very careful in handling calla tubers, the slightest damage to the bulbs can spread the disease.

### Soil

For container growing we recommend a soil mix that is fairly high in organic matter, It should definitely have good drainage. The pH level for the soil should be 6 to 6.5, it is also important that the soil is well sterilized.

### Planting and Maintenance

**We supply specially treated bulbs to increase shootcount.** For maximum effect please plant bulbs as soon as possible after receipt. For container growing, plant tubers with growingtips up and barely covered with soil (1 inch deep max.). For cut flower culture outdoors (fieldgrown) plant tubers 2.5 to 3 inch deep (same for flower beds in greenhouse).

The numbers of corms per pot depend on pot size. Are you growing in landscape sized containers; we advise to use 1 14/16 cm corm on a quart or 2 14/16 cm corms on a gallon pot. Are you growing in floral sized pots; see chart below.

Corm Size	Corms per Pot (Floral sized pots)							
	4" pot	4,5" pot	5" pot	5,5" pot	6" pot	6,5" pot	7" pot	7,5" pot
8-10 cm	2	3	3	3	4			
10-12 cm	1	2	2	2	3	4	5	
12-14 cm	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4
14-16 cm			1	1	1	2	3	3
16-18 cm				1	1	1	2	3
18-20 cm					1	1	1	2
20-24 cm						1	1	1

Most used corm size (standard Garden Joy corm size)

Ideal corm size/pot size combination

### Light Conditions

If callas are greenhouse grown, the plants should be placed in a high light intensity greenhouse. As for flower initiation, plants seem to produce more flowers in high light intensity areas. Low light intensities can cause fading of the flower colour and increase plant height. In mid-summer, some shading may be required in greenhouse culture.

### Watering

After planting, do not water the tubers until the next day, then water thoroughly. After the first watering do not overwater, just keep the soil slightly moist. The plants are native to South Africa and do not need a large amount of water. Also, too much water can cause root problems and spreading of the Erwinia soft rot. Do not water on top of the leaves but try to keep the foliage as dry as possible.

### Ventilation

Plants should always be grown in a well-ventilated area.

### Fertilization:

The tubers do not require a heavy fertilization, 1 to 2 times per month depending on growth. Use a slow release fertilizer like 20-20-20. Do not apply fertilizer until plants start to show growth.



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GARDEN PRODUCTS

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**Days to flower:**

February plantings normally flower in 80 to 90 days. The early spring (March/May) plantings only take 65 to 70 days to flower. Plants start with a few flowers and after about 2-3 weeks there will be 5 weeks of peak flowering. After this stage the plant will keep pushing up single flowers that can continue till the plant dies down. A single flower can last 2-4 weeks depending on the variety and color. Pink and cream flowers re-green first and orange and black flowers last longest. Flower re-greens after pollination quicker and loses its color to avoid attracting insects and with most varieties the flower bends / starts hanging so that the seeds will stay dry. Plants will stretch in a greenhouse; move them outdoor if frost is gone to keep them compact.

**Bonzaï Treatment (only for pot culture):**

- Keep the soil little dryer before you do the bonzaï treatment
- First treatment to be done when shoots are around 1", second treatment when shoots are around 3"but not after shoot is opening
- Concentration 1 ML from the bottle (or 4 gr/l) per pot per gift (use lower concentrate for outdoor culture). Use 50-100 ML water per pot
- Bonzaï works best with cool weather
- Keep pots a little bit dryer on the day of treatment to be sure the Bonzi will be well adapted by the plant

**Flower harvest:**

If plants are grown for cut flowers only, the best time to harvest is shortly after watering. The flowers are easy to pull, no cuts have to be made this way and there will be no extra risk of soft rot spreading. Always pull all flowers, this to stimulate the plant to produce more new flowers instead of putting all energy in the existing flowers. Harvest as soon as flower is fully opened, but before pollen is shed, this way flowers will last the longest. Flowers seem to respond positively to floral preservatives containing sugar and a fungicide. It helps to reduce stem splitting and rolling. Storage temperature should be 41 F.

**Tuber harvest:**

Calla tubers can be harvested and planted again for production. If growers choose to save tubers after flower production, stop watering at least 10 days before digging and 6-8 weeks after flowering. Store tubers dry and cool at 55F. Bulbs do need a dormancy period of 12 weeks before re-planting. Check if tubers are dry, this way they are more mature and not as sensitive to damage. Be very careful with removing the foliage. The best way is to cut it off two inches above the tuber or soil level and to dig several days later. Store tubers in a dry and well-ventilated area. Try to dry tubers as quickly as possible. Do not divide any of the tubers before roots and foliage are completely dry.

**Claims or Comments**

If you run into anything that is not acceptable to you as a grower, we need to know. Please call your sales representative and explain in detail where you have experienced the problems. We will do anything we can to help you and make our organization better in the future. We do our best to ship viable, healthy plants, but we understand that problems do occur. If you feel there is a problem, please write within 10 working days of receipt of your order so we may render any possible assistance. In all cases **we need pictures** of the individual plants, the complete shipment, roots etc. If your shipment has been damaged or shorted, note this on the delivery documents and file a claim with the carrier right away. Also please notify us of any delays. All claims, damages, spoilage and shortages must be reported to us in a written note or letter stating the problem **within 10 working days**.

**Claims received after this period or claims that are not supported by pictures will be respectfully declined.**



**Our bulbs are treated to activate more growing buds. To have maximum profit of this treatment bulbs need to be planted as soon as possible after arrival**

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