



Canna Lily Planting Guide

About Canna Lily

With a huge selection of flowers and leaf colors, there is sure to be a canna that will add pizzazz to your garden. While the flowers of some varieties of cannas are the show, in others it's the huge, tropical-looking foliage. Depending on the variety, cannas can grow from 16 inches to 10 feet in height. Canna Lilies are low maintenance and easy to grow, giving any garden that wonderfully tropical feel.

When to Plant

While typically grown as annuals in cooler regions, Canna Lilies can color the garden year after year in zones that support consistent higher temperatures.

In the north, start your canna bulbs indoors about 6 weeks before your last frost in pots of good, rich potting soil. The pots should be in a warm, sunny area and kept well-watered. Canna bulbs can also be planted directly into the ground after the last frost when the ground is warm, but they may be slow to start growth and late to bloom.

In frost-free areas, the bulbs can be planted at any time.

Where to Plant

Choose a spot in your garden that receives full sunlight, and has well-draining soil. Cannas will not tolerate standing in water puddles.

How to Plant

For outdoor planting, dig holes that are 4 to 6 inches deep. Space out 2 feet apart for tall varieties, and 1 foot for smaller cultivars. Dig in a little peat moss and perlite. For planting in pots, fill a large pot within 6 inches of the top with well-draining potting mix with added peat moss and perlite. Place one bulb per hole, with the eyes facing up. Backfill your hole with additional soil until the bulb and roots are well-covered. Gently pat down the dirt around the base. Water your new plant well.

Caring for Canna Lilies

Once established, cannas need to be kept moist. Fertilizing monthly with a fertilizer high in phosphate will aid in continued blooms.

In climates that are warm year-round, cannas can remain in the ground and be given a dose of fertilizer in spring to restart the growing process. Cover with mulch or straw during frost.

In climates where the ground freezes hard, you may dig up and air dry the plants in the fall. Store in a cool, dry place.