



J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift
and Garden Center

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Canna Care

Cannas grow best in the full, hot sun. They look their best when they are planted in groups of three to five roots; either with all the same color or with multiple colors or varieties. Cannas are easy to plant, easy to grow, and are fun to watch bloom. Perhaps one of the biggest advantages of cannas is that deer don't seem to care for the taste of the canna leaves; deer just seem to leave them alone. The only real problem cannas encounter is that slugs and snails love to eat little holes in their big leaves. With just a little slug and snail bait, you can plant cannas and just watch them grow without much fuss.



Cannas are often referred to as 'Canna Lilies'. However, cannas are not true lilies and they do not belong to the lily family. They were nicknamed Canna Lily because their flower stem resembles the flower stem of the ginger lily.



Planting Time

Plant canna roots outside in the spring, after the hard-frost season is past; usually mid-April. You can also plant cannas indoors, or in a greenhouse, four to six weeks earlier in the spring than you can plant them outside. You will have large plants to plant outside in May. Many gardeners will plant their cannas into one gallon size pots about mid-March and then wait until the chance of frost is past to plant these growing canna plants outside; usually mid-May.



Location

Cannas grow best in full sun. They will tolerate a little shade but they require a minimum of six hours of sunlight each day to bloom. They will grow in the shade but they will not bloom in the shade.



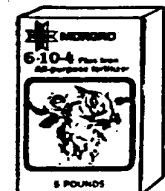
Cannas prefer loose, sandy soil with plenty of organic matter. Cannas will grow in the heavier clay soils if

you can provide good drainage; so the roots do not rot in the soil. Many cannas can also be planted in pots and put in the boggy part of a pond or on top of a rock in the middle of the pond; as long as the canna roots can still 'breathe'.



Planting Information

Plant canna roots five to six inches deep. Fertilize them lightly with either **Bone Meal** or **6-10-4 Vegetable & Flower Fertilizer** at planting time. Do not put the fertilizer directly on the roots or you may burn their tender hair roots as they begin to grow.



Water your canna roots thoroughly when you first plant them. After the first watering, cannas do not need much water until the plant actually starts to bloom. During the hot summer be sure to water your cannas consistently, not constantly, especially while they are blooming, to help prolong their blossom time.

Blossoms

Cannas bloom from July until frost, producing tall stalks with many colorful blossoms on each stalk. Remove the faded blossoms to keep the flowers looking their best. When all of the blossoms on a flower stalk fade, cut that stalk off at ground level. More



flower stalks are probably already growing and more flower stalks should start to appear as soon as you remove the older, faded flowers.

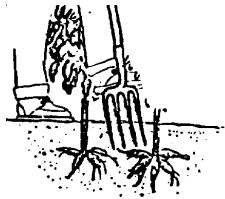
Canna leaves are useful in cut flower arrangements but the cut canna flowers do not last very long.

Fall and Winter Care

Canna roots will not always survive the winter if they are left outside during the winter. You may have a spot in your yard that may provide enough winter protection for canna roots to survive, but, if you really want to save your canna roots from year to year you should dig them in the fall, and store them in a protected area during the winter. This fall harvest and winter storage procedure also helps you remember to divide your cannas regularly, so they always stay healthy.



Dig canna roots in the fall after a hard-frost has killed much of the top growth. Put the canna roots into a protected area, to let the leaves continue to die naturally, and to let the roots dry out before storage.



After the leaves have all died and turned

brown, cut the leaves off the roots. Shake as much soil off the roots as possible.



Inspect the roots for any decay or insect damage. Do not store diseased or damaged roots; they may spoil the rest of the roots.



Divide the roots, in the fall, just enough so they will store easily during the winter. The bigger roots will store easier than the smaller roots. Wait until spring to divide the canna roots into the planting size. By spring you will also be able to see any other disease or insect problems that may have occurred during winter storage.

Dust the canna roots with **Soil & Bulb Dust** as you put them into your winter storage area. Be sure to coat any cut or broken surface areas of your bulbs. This dust helps prevent rotting and kills insects that may have gone undetected during your inspection.



Store your canna roots in wooden or cardboard boxes; not in plastic bags. Burlap



bags are also an excellent way to store canna roots for the winter. Canna roots need to be kept moist, not wet, during winter storage and they must be able to breathe. Cannas stored in plastic bags often rot during the winter.



Check your canna roots regularly during the winter to make sure they are not kept too wet or too dry. Check for mice and other rodents that may eat or damage your cannas. Canna roots are especially tasty to mice during the winter because other food is often scarce.



Varieties

Many varieties of cannas are available. Some varieties of cannas produce very small flowers and other varieties produce very large flowers. Blossom colors range from dark red, bright red, pink, salmon, coral, orange, gold, yellow, white, to multi-colored flowers; and several more shades in between. The leaves may be dark green, light green, variegated, or even bronzy-red. The plants may grow from 18 inches tall to more than 12 feet in height. Cannas are becoming very specialized and many growers are hybridizing canna lilies. Some canna roots listed in specialty catalogs can sell for more than \$25.00 each.

Some of the most common varieties are:

Angel Pink - Grows 30" tall. Has green leaves and pink flowers.

City of Portland - Grows 4' to 5' tall. Has green leaves and salmon-pink flowers.

Cleopatra - Grows 30" tall. Has green leaves and multi-colored flowers: red with spotted and striped yellow blotches.

Crimson Beauty - Grows 30" tall. Has green leaves and red flowers.

North Star - Grows 30" tall. Has green leaves and red flowers.

Peach Blush - Grows 3' tall. Has green leaves and peach colored flowers.

Pink Futurity - Grows 30" tall. Has green leaves and pink flowers.

Red King Humbert - Grows 5' tall. Has green leaves and red flowers.

Rosamond Cole - Grows 3' tall. Has Green leaves and multi-colored flowers: red with golden-yellow edges.

The President - Grows 3' tall. Has green leaves and red flowers. By far the most popular variety.

Wyoming - Grows 5' tall. Has bronzy red leaves and orange flowers.

Yellow Futurity - Grows 30" tall. Has green leaves and yellow flowers.

Yellow King Humbert - Grows 5' tall. Has green leaves and bright yellow flowers.