



Canna Lily (*Canna x generalis*)

Kathy Strampe, UMN Extension Crow Wing County Master Gardener Volunteer

Showy plants both for their foliage and flowers, cannas are native to tropical and sub-tropical areas and can be a challenge to grow. They are not true lilies. They have large, glossy leaves that are 6 - 12" wide and come in a variety of colors from bronze, purple, burgundy and bright green to multicolored. Flower spikes may be up to one foot long. Blossom size varies by type with a range of colors possible, including red, pink, salmon, yellow, orange and red with yellow.

Type	Annual bulb that can be overwintered inside
Hardiness Zone	Not hardy in Minnesota although they can be overwintered inside
Sun	Full sun, although they may do well in an area with partial sun that is generally warm
Bloom Time	Mid-summer to frost
Height	1½' to 5' depending on variety
Spread	1 ½' to 6'
Tolerance	Drought tolerant, poor soil, heat and wet soil
Attracts	Hummingbirds and bees
Additional Features	Rabbits may chew on foliage

Soil and Site Recommendations

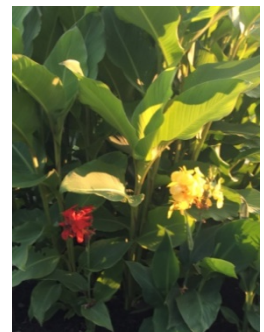
- Drainage: needs good drainage
- Type: clay, loam/silt, high organic matter

Planting Recommendations

- Type: seed/bare root/plant or bulb can be started indoors or placed directly into the garden
- When to plant: after the risk of frost has passed
- Depth of planting: 3 - 4 inches in a pot or garden
- Spacing: 1½ - 3 feet apart
- Division/transplant tips: rhizomes may be divided every few years.

Maintenance

- Watering: Cannas enjoy heat, so they need to be kept watered to thrive.
- Fertilization: either a fertilizer of 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 can be used in the spring and during the growing season



- Pinching/deadheading: deadheading spent flowers will increase repeat blooming
- Annual maintenance: Cannas are very high maintenance. Rhizomes must be dug up each fall after frost. Stems must be trimmed back to 2 – 3 inches, let them dry and then wrap in newspaper and a medium such as peat moss to resist rot. Store in a cool place and check periodically through the winter for rot or dryness.

Common Problems

Disease: may rot in poorly drained soils; leaf spot, rust and bacterial blight are possible

Insects: slugs, snails, Japanese beetles and aster yellows

Resources

<https://extension.umn.edu/flowers/calla-and-canna-lilies>

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu>

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant” for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

Visit us at crowwingmastergardeners.org, on Facebook @CWCMasterGardeners and on Instagram @cwcmastergardener.