



Calla lily (*Zantedeschia*)

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Part of the Araceae (jack-in-the-pulpit) family, it boasts showy flowers in a rainbow of colors from white to deep purple. The dramatic, large chalice-shaped flowers with large leaves are native to South Africa. In warmer climates it is a perennial, but in Minnesota it is grown as an annual that must be planted in the spring, dug up in the fall, and overwintered inside. Calla lilies may also be grown indoors as a houseplant. Beautiful as a cut flower for arrangements. **Caution: All parts of the plant are toxic to dogs and cats.**

Type	Annual or as houseplants
Hardiness Zone	8 - 10
Sun	Full sun; part shade - although it may not bloom as well
Bloom Time	July to frost depending on variety
Height	1' - 3'
Spread	1' - 2'
Tolerance	Easy to grow although they need to be kept watered
Additional Features	Generally ignored by deer and rabbits

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: prefers moist rich soil
- Soil pH: alkaline soils with pH 5.6 to 6.5
- Placement considerations: beds, borders, containers; will grow near streams or water gardens

Planting Recommendations

- Type: rhizomes
- When to plant: spring; make sure the tips are pointing up
- Depth to plant: 4" - 6" deep
- Mulching: mulch to retain moisture
- Spacing: 12" - 18" apart
- Division/transplant tips: after fall frost, dig up, separate cormels (small corms), and store until spring planting.

Maintenance

- Watering: well-drained soil, moist but not soggy
- Fertilization: after planting, fertilize monthly with 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 fertilizer

- Pinching/deadheading: flowers should last 4 - 8 weeks; remove flower stem when bloom fades
- Annual maintenance: dig up in after fall frost; store rhizomes where they will not freeze with temperatures between 40 - 50 degrees F.

Common Problems

Disease: rhizome rot

Insects: Japanese beetles may eat the flowers and foliage

Resources

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=276469&isprofile=1&basic=calla>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/zantedeschia/common-name/calla-lily/>

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

<https://www.gardenia.net/guide/learn-how-to-plant-and-care-for-your-calla-lilies>

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.

Common Varieties



Zantedeschia albomaculata
Calla Lily
 ivory white flowers
 height of 1’ - 2’



Zantedeschia rehmannii
Pink Calla
 pink with cream blush flowers
 height 1’ to 1.5’



Zantedeschia elliotiana
Golden Calla
 yellow flowers
 height of 2’ - 3’