

Canna Lily Rhizomes Planting and Care Instructions

Cannas are just so easy to grow and with very little care they develop into real beauties. They grow in nearly any soil and multiply themselves in a blink of an eye. They do well in full sun or partial shade and even in containers!

These are hardy to zone 8 and higher. In zones 7 and lower, you should dig up, store over winter and replant after last frost.

Planting Instructions:

1. Find a location where the soil drains well. If there are still water puddles 5-6 hours after a hard rain, scout out another site or amend the soil with the addition of organic material to raise the level 2-3 inches to improve the drainage. Peat moss, compost, ground bark or decomposed manure all work well and are widely available. Canna lilies can thrive in soils that are too moist for many bulbs, but the soil must not be waterlogged.
2. Site your canna lilies where they will receive full sunlight; in very hot zones they can be planted in part shade or even full shade.
3. Dig holes and plant the rhizomes 3"- 4" deep from the top of the rhizome, and 1 foot apart (or farther – they will spread with time). Place the rhizomes with the eyes (or stems, if there are stems on them) facing up.
4. After planting, water your cannas generously, soaking the soil. Roots and sprouts will form quickly in warm soil. (If the soil is still quite cool, wait until it warms before planting.) Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer or a bloom booster during the active blooming period. Cannas are heavy feeders, so regular fertilization during the blooming months will keep them blooming strong. Always follow label directions on fertilizer, don't over fertilize your plants or you will burn them. Small amounts of fertilizer applied more frequently is better than one large amount applied once or twice.
5. After blooming has finished for the season leave the foliage in place; don't cut it off. The leaves will gather sunlight and provide nourishment for next year's show. Water as needed; these grow well in damp soil, but are equally suited to average conditions; they don't bloom well in very dry conditions, however. Leaves may be removed when they yellow. (In cold areas, to save your canna rhizomes for next year, dig them after the first frost. Let the rhizomes air dry for several days. Then store in a cool location in paper bags or boxes filled with peat moss.)

Pots, Tubs & Urns

Cannas will grow fine in containers. Fill your containers with good quality, well-draining soil. Almost any commercially available potting medium will work fine. Make sure there are adequate drainage holes; canna tubers must never sit in waterlogged soil or they will rot. Keep in mind the mature size of the cannas and plan your container sizes accordingly. Half barrels are wonderful for planting cannas and you can plant 4-5 in one of these barrels for a nice full appearance right away.