

Product Information

These plants are almost unparalleled for their foliage. They have large, arrow-shaped and paper-thin leaves that come in a striking array of colors and patterns. A mass of caladium is an explosion of whites, greens, reds and pinks ... mottled, veined and striped. But these plants have a few drawbacks. They are tuberous plants that only grow foliage from spring to autumn, they require very high humidity, and they have absolutely no cold tolerance.

Caladiums are a seasonal plant even in the tropics, where gardeners plant them in the spring and summer months when they'll thrive in the heat and wet. In the home situation, they'll do best with lots of heat, bright but indirect light, and lots of humidity. But even under the best conditions, caladiums will only last a few months before their leaves start to die back and the plant goes dormant again. This is OK—they're supposed to do that.



Care Tips

Light: Indirect light or moderate shade indoors. The narrower the leaves, the greater the sun it can withstand.

Water: When leaves appear, keep evenly moist. Never allow to dry out and keep humidity as high as practical.

Temperature: The warmer the better. Aim for 70° if possible—tubers begin to grow around 70°F.

Soil: Rich, well-drained potting mix.

Fertilizer: Fertilize weekly during the growing season with liquid or use slow-release pellets.

Indoors or out, caladium are a seasonal plant, with foliage in the summer and a rest period in the autumn or winter. Their rest period isn't determined by temperature or light cycle, but by how long the plant has been growing.

After the leaves begin to die back in the fall, either keep the tubers in the same pot (keeping it dry) or remove, clean and put into sawdust or sand to store. Store tubers above 55°F to minimize loss of healthy tubers. Plant them out again when the next growing season begins.