

CALADIUM

GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

Be sure your Caladium bulbs are cured before you receive them. The bulbs are normally not truly cured and ready for shipment until early January. A cured bulb should be ready for sale, in 4" or 6" pots, within 8 weeks if given ample heat. Choose your supplier carefully, immature bulbs only make small, deformed immature leaves.

UNPACK IMMEDIATELY - One rotted bulb can infect a whole case in 24-48 hours. Unpack Caladiums before plants, if a decision between the two is necessary.

Store bulbs in a dry, high temperature (80°F plus) and dark area; this prevents sprouting and dehydration. A good storage place is a boiler room or the highest temperature area in a packing shed or head house; lay into flats as they are unpacked. Do not cover; allow open air in high temperature area; do not allow temperature to drop below 65°F in storage area (prefer 80-90°F).

Do not grow Caladiums if you can't start bulbs at a minimum of 80°F continuous temperature for first 3-4 weeks or until 3-4" growth.

Coring out the primary eye is a good idea if time and labor permits. This will increase initial leaves by maybe 20-40%. Starting heat of 90 -100°F also increases initial leaves. If you core bulbs, use an old fashion potato corer (de-eyer) - remove no more than 1/4" of the tuber with the eyes. Core only the 1-4 primary eyes; number of eyes needing removal depends on bulb size and variety. Allow the open area to seal over (callus) before potting, or it might get infected and rot after potting. 48 hrs. in open area (hot as possible) is enough time to allow the callousing of the eye removed area.



Mammoth Jumbo #1 #2

Start Caladium bulbs out at a continuous temperature of 100°F for first 3 weeks or growth 3-4" long. Place on heat table, cover with black plastic film and place in a room on shelves (old refrigerator perfect) with thermostat set at 95 - 100°F for 3 weeks and you have beautiful Caladium pots. Then move to growing area with minimum of 80°F nights, best higher. Caladiums want and like hot temperatures, that's the reason they do so good in southern USA, especially along the Gulf coast. (90°F day and night, 90% humidity, 3000 ft. candles)

Recommended Bulbs per Pot:

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|----------------|------------------|
| 1 - #2 per 3" | 1 - #1 per 4" |
| 2 - #2 per 4" | 3 - #1 per 6" |
| 6 - #2 per 6" | 5 - #1 per 8" |
| 1 Jumbo per 6" | 1 Mammoth per 6" |
| 2 Jumbo per 8" | 2 Mammoth per 8" |

Space bulbs near edge of container; allowing leaves to cover more area. 3-#1's in 6" pot-put the bulbs near edge, not all 3 right in center of pot-finished product will give more show. The best is to fill any pot reasonably full of bulbs, at least 2/3's.

Caladiums come in many shades of white, green, pink, & red, bicolors. The dry bulbs can be planted out into the yard landscape in groups or as individuals. Pot grown Caladiums are excellent for Easter and Mother's Day sales.

PINK CLOUD



RED FLASH



MISS MUFFETT

Kurt A. Messick