

MESSICK COMPANY LLC
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Calla Aethiopica

Cuts or Pots Cultural Directions

Culture: General Calla Aethiopica culture for this "Cluster" selection.

RECEIVING AND HANDLING OF DORMANT TUBERS: Unpack on arrival. **Dispose of any soft rot and wash hands to avoid spreading the bacteria to healthy bulbs. Place in well ventilated trays at 65F for one week prior to planting.** For long-term storage, keep well ventilated at 45-50F; avoid excessive drying by keeping humidities at 80-90%.

Planting:

Calla Aethiopica root divisions should be planted 3 - 4 inches deep for garden use and no more than 2 inches deep for tub or pot culture. Tamp soil firmly around the root. Large-size roots should be planted singly in 3, or preferably, 5-gallon tubs and 10" pots (smaller tubs will become crowded and top-heavy).

Soil:

Use a rich soil with a pH of about 6.0. Mix in generous amounts of organic material (such as 25% peat). Calla Aethiopica should be kept fairly moist. These Callas can be grown continuously in the same soils, provided disease does not become serious.

Light & Temperature:

Light is required at about 5,000 - Foot Candles, but Calla Aethiopica are not dependent on length of day or certain temperatures for flower-bud initiation. The most satisfactory night temperatures are 50 - 55° F. Disease is furthered by high temperatures.

Temperature:

80 Days @ 65 - 70° F Nights - 75 - 80° F Days
90 Days @ 62 - 65° F Nights - 70 - 75° F Days
100 Days @ 58 - 62° F Nights - 65 - 70° F Days
150 Days @ 38 - 45° F Nights - 50 - 70° F Days

Pests & Diseases:

Spray with Fungicide to control mildew and the resulting leaf spot. Control thrip. As a preventive against rhizoctonia, drench with Fungicide. For prevention of water molds, drench with Subdue. Thoroughly wet soils with these drenches soon after planting. Consult your county agricultural advisor for additional chemical advice, if necessary.

Fertilizer:

Incorporate Super Phosphate at planting time. Apply light applications of nitrogen and potash each month. Once the future flowers or "Spikes" become 6 inches tall, withhold the nitrogen to avoid extremely tall and weak flower stems.



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