

# Planting Caladium Bulbs for Lasting Summer Beauty



Plant after night temperatures no longer drops below 60 degrees Fahrenheit,

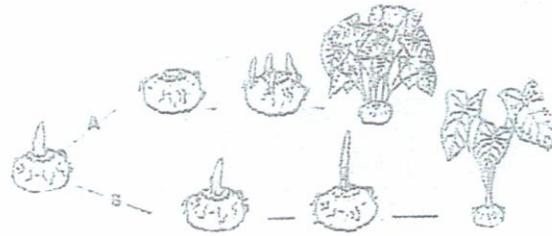
Caladiums thrive best in warm temperature of 70 degrees and more and may be used for outdoor planting or as a houseplant in a pot.

Bulb size determines how many leaves. If you would like your bulb to produce many leaves, you should de-eye the bulb if one large central eye exists rather than several. De-eyeing is the removal of the center eye of the bulb to produce a fuller plant with many leaves. Plant quality is improved and production time will increase from 7 to 10 days. De-eyeing requires on a 1/16" deep cut. Any cut larger may destroy the lateral buds and results in fewer leaves developing.

## EXAMPLE:

**A** is bulb after de-eyeing.

**B** is bulb without de-eyeing.



## For outdoor planting . . .

- Bulbs should be planted when frost danger is past.
- Bulbs should be planted about 2 inches deep.
- Plant bulbs 2" to 4" apart. Bulbs look best when planted in clusters.
- When planting 3 or more bulbs in a hole, the spacing should be about 12-18" apart. Three or more in one hole will give a much fuller appearance of the flowerbed.
- The soil should be light and well drained. Fertilizer and bone meal may be added for better results. Keep soil moist, not soggy, and then water freely when leaves appear.

## As a houseplant or potted outdoor plant . . .

- Place bulbs in a 4 to 5 inch pot 2" below the surface using light potting mix. They may be transplanted outdoors after flowering.
- Caladiums in Texas do best in partial shade in our Gulf Coast Sun and humidity.
- Lighter colors such as the whites hold up better in sun; whereas, darker colors such as reds do better in shadier environments.

**Quail Valley Garden Club**

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