

Tips for Success

What Type Of Sunlight Do Caladiums Prefer?: Caladiums thrive in a shady or partially sunny area. Avoid areas with direct full sun in the afternoon and early evening. They will need a some sort of protection from this. They also need moisture-retentive but well-drained soil, and they will benefit from mulching and regular fertilizing.

Zones: Caladiums are winter hardy only in zones 9-11 (to about 40F). If they are planted in the ground and the soil remained frost-free, they will come up at the right time without worries of damage. If they are planted in pots, you may place your pots outside and leave them there all summer long when nights stay above 60 degrees.

Winter Dormancy: The tubers can be dug and stored indoors in colder climates. When the foliage yellows and droops in fall, lift the tubers with the foliage still attached, clean them of excess soil, and allow them to air-dry in a warm, sunny location. When the foliage breaks away freely from the tubers, pack them in lightly moistened peat moss or sand and keep them in a dry, well-ventilated place where the temperature is cool (50 - 60F). You may also can store them away in a paper bag or cardboard box and keep them in a cool, dry location. Avoid using plastic bags as they tend to retain too much moisture and do not store them in a refrigerator.

Caladium: Caladium is a tender perennial plant grown from tubers. Native to South America, this plant thrives in warm weather. Like their cousins, elephant's ears, they're carefree once you cover their basic needs. They prefer warm, moist soil while resenting cool soil temperatures. All Caladiums love filtered sunlight and shade, so place them in amongst other shade plants like begonias, impatiens, and ferns and they'll feel right at home while helping to brighten up this location. Use as a bedding plant, grown in containers or used as a filler in mixed plantings. May be grown in the ground all year in warm winter climates and still may go dormant during the winter or dry season. Elsewhere dig tubers up when leaves die back in the fall and store or pot up and bring indoors to grow during the winter.



Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Fancy Leaf Caladium Mix
Caladium

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: customerservice@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within 90 days from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll tree number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at RobertaUniqueGardens.com.

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM EST

RobertaUniqueGardens.com

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Annual and Tropical Plants

Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Tender Perennial
(Annual)

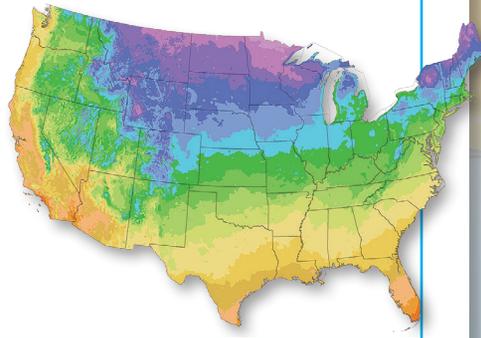
 **Light/Sun:** Partial Sun to
Partial Shade

 **Mature Height:** 12-24"

 **Mature Spread:** 12-24"

 **Bloom Time:** N/A- Foliage Only

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 9 to 11



Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Please take the tubers out of the box immediately and remove any shipping materials from around the tubers. Make sure that the general temperature, but especially the soil temperature, is above 60°F before you plant.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Whether planting your caladium in pots or in the ground, the planting depth and distance are exactly the same. Plant your bulbs 4-6" deep, backfilling the hole with the remaining soil, leaving a 1-2" layer of soil covering the top of the bulb. The planting distance inside pots and in the garden are also 4-6".

Potted Plants: Caladium will do well in the ground (year round in zones 9-11, where temperatures consistently stay above 40F), but in most other cold winter locations, a container is what is preferred. You may want to plant them one tuber per 6" pot or combine multiple together into larger pots.

Soil Preparation: Use a regular potting or garden soil, if planting in the ground, amend the soil with a potting mix for better drainage. These plants love a moist, well-draining soil.

Watering: This particular type of tuber enjoys a consistently moist environment. Water thoroughly upon planting and subsequently once or twice a week during the entire growing season. If extreme heat and drought-like conditions occur, extra watering(s) may be necessary to maintain plant integrity.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta's Bounty a couple of weeks after planting and then once or twice a month throughout the entire growing season.

Storing Tubers: Unless you're in a zone where temperatures normally remain above the 40F threshold, it will be necessary for you to dig up and store your caladiums as winter approaches. Besides the outdoor temperatures, be careful to keep an eye on the soil temps as well. Damage can start to occur to the caladium tubers if the soil temperatures fall below and stay at 45F or lower.

Planting Steps

Step 1 Remove the plastic bag from around the tuber and discard any unattached pieces that may have come loose. If necessary, you may store tubers for 3 weeks in a cool, dry place around 50-60F.

Step 2 Each caladium tuber has a large, central bud surrounded by several small buds. If the large, central bud is allowed to grow it will prevent the small buds from growing and producing leaves. Use the tip of a sharp knife to lift out the large, central bud, being careful not to injure any of the surrounding small buds. De-eyeing will stimulate the production of a greater number of, but slightly smaller, leaves.

Step 3 A key to planting caladium tubers is figuring out which is the top and which is the bottom. The bottom side is the concave side and is where the roots and leaves sprout! The more pointed side of the bulb is the top.

Step 4 Cover the top of bulbs with only 1 to 2 inches of soil. Water the plants thoroughly. In pots, you may place plants outside in the partial sun. Sprouts after 4-6 weeks. In the ground it takes a little longer if the temperatures are still rather cold.

Step 5 Caladiums are one of the few bulbs that require shade, partial sunlight or filtered full sun; their leaves may scorch if they do not receive protection from the afternoon sun. They also need moisture-retentive but well-drained soil, and they benefit from regular feeding. Caladiums require warm temperatures to sprout and grow. If planted too early outdoors, they may rot. Wait until soil temperatures reach 60F to plant in the ground or into a larger container outdoors.

