Calla Lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 14 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Lily of the Nile, Easter Lily, Arum Lily

Description:

This variety forms a sturdy mound of leathery, shiny green arrow shaped leaves, bearing stems of white, funnel shaped flowers with a yellow spadix; a classic at weddings; likes to be kept evenly moist; beautiful in the garden or pondside



Calla Lily flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Calla Lily in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Calla Lily features bold white trumpet-shaped flowers with yellow throats rising above the foliage from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive glossy pointy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Calla Lily is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Calla Lily is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Calla Lily will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 14 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division.

Calla Lily is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.