



Hedychium Care Instructions

- Hedychium are easily grown perennials with very similar requirements to Canna. They grow very well in most of the UK and in winter require minimal care to ensure they survive.
- If you have purchased these as young plants then they will need growing on into at least a 2L pot before planting outside in spring.
- Using a slow or controlled release fertilizer when planting will ensure that your plant is correctly fed and will grow at an optimum rate remembering to re-pot as necessary. John Innes or general multi- purpose compost will usually have sufficient food for the first 4-6 weeks, if no food is added.
- A rhizome is a root section. If you have purchased a rhizome, those that we send to you may have only a hint of roots but the section will grow and it will develop many roots and the Hedychium plant will follow quite quickly. There should be small, red shoots to give an indication of the correct way up.
- Place the rhizome just beneath the surface of multipurpose compost with the red shoots pointing upwards. Plant either in a large pot or straight into the ground and water in gently, increasing the amount of water as the plant grows. Plant out after the last of the frosts have passed.
- Hedychium can get very tall, some varieties quickly growing up to 10 feet tall.
- Hedychium like rich, very well drained soil and grow anywhere from full-sun to shade. Water regularly, especially in summer and long dry spells and feed with a balanced fertilizer once a month or use a slow release fertiliser. When a flower starts to fade, deadhead it to ensure that they will continue blooming right up until the first autumn frosts. Certain varieties may only flower very late in the autumn or not at all depending on the summer we have had.
- Allow the plant to be blackened by the first frost and cut off the foliage and dig up the rhizomes, cleaning off the soil. Store them for the winter in dry soil-less compost (multipurpose not John Innes) in large pots or boxes in a frost-free place. A garage or unheated porch that received little light is ideal. They can then be re-planted in early spring into a pot, given some heat and watered well before planting in a border in May.
- In Spring of the second year when re-potting, check to see if the Hedychium has several eyes or new young shoots. If so, slice it up so that each

piece has an eye and a section of roots. Put each in a pot, water and stand in the warmth. This has to one of the easiest ways of division to produce new plants.

■ If you live in a warmer part of the UK, you can leave the rhizomes in the ground all year round but they will grow slower and smaller. It is best to plant them in very well drained soil and adding grit/sand will help greatly. This will prevent the rhizome rotting from winter wet. Simply cut the foliage down after the first frost and mulch with a 4-6" layer of bark chippings or similar. Remove this in Spring and the plant will shoot from the rhizome again though perhaps slower than if they had been lifted.

■ Please have a look at www.easytropicals.com for companion ideas & a general hardiness guide. If you have any questions please email for a prompt reply.

Many thanks for looking.