



caring for...

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**Calla Lilies**

## Calla Lilies

### Secrets of success

Never over water potted Calla Lilies, as soggy wet compost encourages the tubers to rot. Feed weekly with a liquid fertiliser such as Miracle-Gro All Purpose Plant Food or Levington's Tomorite, from April until September.

After flowering, most varieties make unusual foliage plants and can be used to dramatic effect in shady areas.

Gradually withhold water as growth decreases in autumn. Store tubers in their pots, in cool, but frost free conditions over winter. In March, remove from their pots and shake away compost, dead roots and stem bases before re-potting into the same sized container, or one slightly larger, using a peat based potting compost. Cover tubers with 4cm (1.5") of compost, then water thoroughly to settle.

#### Haskins Ferndown

Longham, Ferndown  
Dorset BH22 9DJ  
Tel: 01202 591919

#### Haskins West End

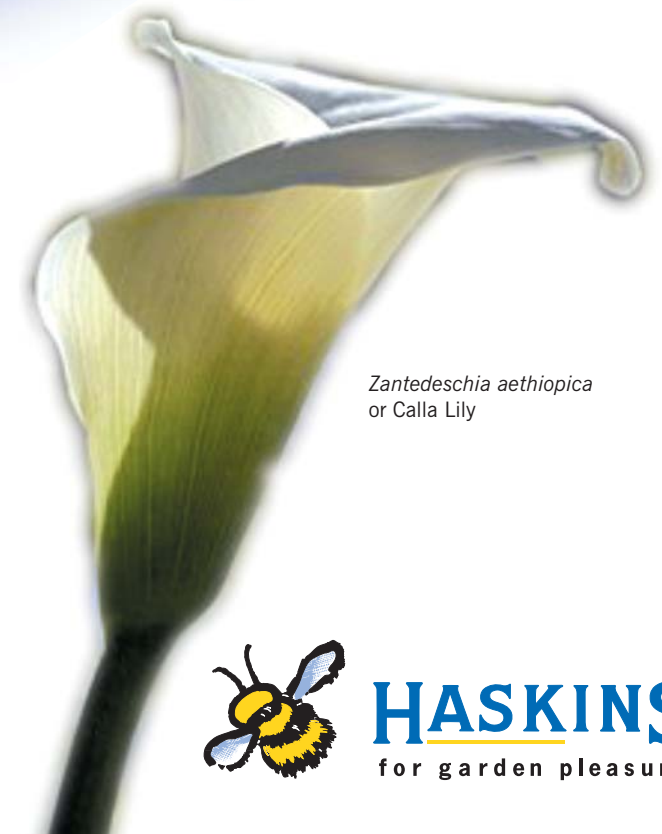
Mansbridge Road, Gaters Hill  
West End, Southampton SO18 3HW  
Tel: 023 8047 2324

#### Haskins Roundstone

Roundstone Bypass, Angmering  
West Sussex BN16 4BD  
Tel: 01903 777666

#### Haskins Snowhill

Snowhill Lane, Copthorne  
West Sussex RH10 3EY  
Tel: 01342 712545



*Zantedeschia aethiopica*  
or Calla Lily



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for garden pleasure



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# caring for... Calla Lilies

## Zantedescia, Arum or Calla Lily

This family of tuberous perennials, grown for their exotic brightly coloured spathes (bracts or flowers), are more familiar to florists than to gardeners. Their waxy, arrow shaped leaves, sometimes heavily spotted, are equally attractive. Originating from Southern and Eastern Africa, a few varieties are not surprisingly, slightly tender. However, their tropical appearance will add instant dramatic appeal to any patio or shady courtyard, during the summer. Ideal for growing in a pot, over-wintering is never a problem. Simply move the entire container into a frost-free garage or shed and keep barely moist from mid autumn until spring.

During the summer months keep all Callas well watered and liquid feed once a week with Miracle-Gro All Purpose Plant Food to encourage flowering and lush growth.

In recent years there has been great interest in introducing new coloured hybrids - aided by micro-propagation - enabling producers to bulk-up new varieties rapidly. Effort has been made to produce compact plants, with increased flowering. These new introductions also make excellent houseplants for a sunny windowsill or conservatory.

## Zantedescia aethiopica - "Arum Lily"

The hardiest variety, able to over winter in the garden, withstanding temperatures as low as -5C (23°F). In exceptionally mild areas or in a sheltered town garden, they will often remain evergreen. Bright, glossy green leaves reach up to 40cm (16") long. A dazzling succession of large, pure white spathes appear throughout the summer. Height and spread; 90cm x 60cm (36" x 24"). *Z. aethiopica* has given rise to a number of exceptional offspring: 'Crowborough' - even hardier than its parent, 'Green Goddess' - green splashed spathes and 'Little Gem' - a dwarf and floriferous variety reaching only 45cm (18"). They may also be used as a spectacular pond marginal, if planted into an aquatic basket and either dropped to the bottom of the pond (below the reach of the ice), or removed to frost free conditions for the winter. If planted in the garden, ensure crowns are covered with a thick layer of straw, bracken or other insulation material, before the onset of winter.



*Zantedeschia elliotiana* hybrid  
commonly called "Calla Lily"

## Zantedescia albomaculata

(syn. *Z. melanoleuca*) and its hybrids produce cream, pale yellow or pink spathes, up to 12cm (5") long, with mid green, speckled leaves. Being slightly tender, this variety requires frost free conditions for winter.  
Minimum winter temperature 10°C (50°F).

## Zantedescia elliotiana

or "Golden Arum" is a large plant with a heavily spotted dark green foliage reaching 45cm (18"). A dazzling array of colourful hybrids are on the market today, bearing 15cm (6") long spathes in shades of apricot, burnt orange, blood red or plum purple. Unfortunately, the improved colour pallet is at the expense of the foliage, which are often plain green. Minimum winter temperature 10°C (50°F).

*Z. 'Aztec gold'* - Golden yellow spathes ageing to burnt orange. Unspotted green leaves. Height and spread 55cm x 20cm (20" x 8").

*Z. 'Black-eyed Beauty'* - Cream spathes with unusual black throats. Green leaves, heavily spotted white. Height and spread 30-40cm x 15cm (12-16" x 6").

*Z. 'Black Magic'* - Soft yellow spathes with black throats. Pronounced white marbled leaves. Height and spread 75cm x 20cm (30" x 8").

*Z. 'Dusky Pink'* - Rounded mauve-pink spathes with dark throats. Height and spread 70cm x 20cm (28" x 8").

*Z. 'Golden Affair'* - Bright yellow spathes, unspotted green leaves. Height and spread 65cm x 20cm (26" x 8").

## Zantedescia rehmannii

or Pink Arum, blooms in shades of white, through pink to dark purple - 12cm (5") long with yellow spadices. Minimum winter temperature 10 C (50 F).