

The torch-like blooms and large, banana-like foliage of the **Canna** (*Canna × generalis*) make a bold statement in summer gardens. Some varieties are giants reaching up to 6 feet tall and can be used as temporary screens or hedges.

Dwarf forms reaching only 2 to 3 feet tall are also available. Flower colors on both the giant and dwarf forms include apricot, orange, red, white, pink, yellow, variegated, and speckled. Foliage color also ranges from bright green to variegated with combinations of yellow, maroon, red, bronze, cream, and green. Cannas thrive in the summer heat and prefer full sun and a rich, moist or wet soil. They should be fertilized regularly for continuous blooms throughout the summer.

Rhizomes are planted horizontally in the ground 4 to 6 inches deep. Cut the plants back to within 3 to 4 inches of the ground after the foliage has been blackened by frost. Carefully dig up the rhizomes, let them dry for a few hours, then place them in open crates or mesh bags. Store at 40 to 50°F.

With more than ten thousand cultivated varieties, **dahlias** (*Dahlia × hybrida*) stand out like beacons in the summer garden and offer fifteen different flower forms in nearly every color except brown and true blue. The blooms range in size from 1 to 17 inches across, while the plants range in height from 2 feet tall for bedding dahlias to 20 feet for giant tree dahlias. Blooming begins around the end of



July and continues until frost. Dahlias should be planted about 6 inches deep and about 18 inches apart. The taller dahlias will require staking, as they cannot support themselves. After a killing frost has destroyed the foliage, cut off the stems just above the ground. Wash the tubers with water to remove as much soil as possible. Dry the tubers in a protected site. When the tubers become dry to the touch, place them upside down in vermiculite. Store in a dry, 40 to 50°F location. (See also *Dahlias*, RG 315.)

For more information on selection, planting, cultural practices, and environmental quality, contact your Iowa State University Extension county office or visit one of these ISU Web sites.

Extension Publications—
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/>

Horticulture—<http://www.hort.iastate.edu>

Reiman Gardens—
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... and justice for all

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Growing and Over-wintering Tender Perennials



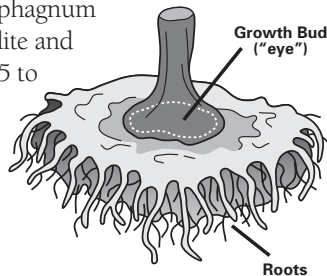
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Perennials such as tuberous begonias, gladioli, cannas, and dahlias are an integral part of many home landscapes. They put on excellent displays of color until a killing frost. Unfortunately, they will not survive our harsh winter weather outdoors and must be dug in the fall and stored indoors through the winter months. Cultural and winter storage requirements for several commonly grown tender perennials are provided below.

As shown on the cover, **Tuberous Begonias** (*Begonia × tuberhybrida*) easily brighten a shady corner of the garden. They do best in protected sites in partial shade. They are available in upright and trailing types, single or double flowers, a wide variety of vibrant colors (bi-colors) and flower forms. Some of the flower forms available include camellia, cascade, carnation, and picotee types as well as the stamina-packed non-stop series. Height ranges from 8 inches to almost 2 feet with the majority staying within 8 to 12 inches.

Plant the tubers 2 to 3 inches deep with the round side down. For earlier blooming, plant tubers indoors in late March or early April. Keep plants well watered and fertilize regularly for continuous bloom. These beauties work well in containers and can be brought indoors in the fall for winter enjoyment. Plants that are left outdoors should be carefully dug after a killing frost.

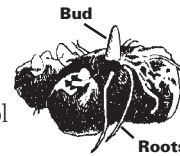
Dry lifted tubers in a warm location for approximately 2 weeks, then bury tubers in a box or sack filled with sphagnum moss or vermiculite and store in a cool (45 to 50°F), dry location.



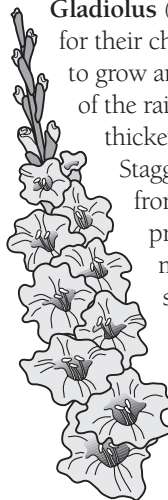
Another great tuber for the shade is the **Fancy Leaf Caladium**

(*Caladium × hortulanum*). This plant is cherished for its foliage rather than its flowers. With its vivid foliage colors of red, pink, green, and white, it will brighten the darkest spots in

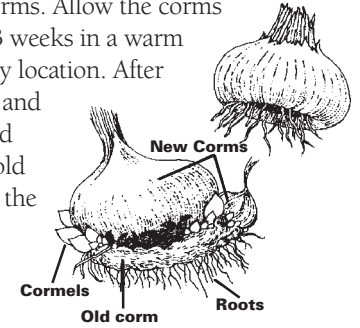
the garden. Many varieties are available with contrasting leaf colors and patterns. Plants generally stay 12 to 18 inches tall. Caladiums prefer shaded sites with moist soil and protection from strong winds. Plant tubers 2 to 3 inches deep when the soil temperature reaches 60°F. Place the tubers round side up. When the foliage dies in the fall, gently lift the tubers and allow to dry for a couple weeks. Store the tubers in dry sand, vermiculite, or sphagnum peat moss in a cool (45 to 50°F), frost-free area.



Gladiolus (*Gladiolus* hybrids) are unequalled for their cheery cut flowers. Glads are easy to grow and available in almost every color of the rainbow. Glads develop from short, thickened underground stems or corms. Staggered plantings every 2 to 3 weeks from late spring to mid-summer will provide continuous blooms from mid-summer to frost. Corms should be planted 4 to 6 inches deep and 5 inches apart. Plant sizes vary from 2 to 3 feet for miniature varieties and 3 to 6 feet for the standard varieties. Glads prefer a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Tall varieties often require support.



After the foliage yellows, carefully dig up the corms, then trim the foliage to within 1 to 2 inches of the corms. Allow the corms to dry for 2 to 3 weeks in a warm (70 to 80°F), dry location. After drying, remove and discard the dried remains of the old corm located at the bottom of the large, healthy corm. Place the corms in mesh bags or old nylon stockings. Store the glads in a dry, cool (35 to 40°F), frost-free area until replanting in spring.



Calla Lilies (*Zantedeschia* spp.) from the Greek word meaning "beautiful," provide a tropical touch to home gardens. The unusual trumpet-shaped blooms (correctly termed spathes) prefer full sun to partial shade in moist or wet soils rich with organic matter. They also do well in water gardens. Fertilize regularly for best flowering. Plant size varies from 12 to 24 inches depending on species. Flower colors include yellow, pink, cream, white, lavender, peach, apricot, and salmon. The mottled foliage is also attractive. Plant the rhizomes 3 to 4 inches deep with a 12 to 18 inch spacing between plants. After the foliage has been damaged by frost, cut off the leaves about 2 inches above the soil line. Dry the calla rhizomes in a warm, dry location for 1 to 2 weeks. Afterwards, bury the rhizomes in vermiculite, sawdust, or peat moss and store in a cool (45 to 50°F), frost-free area.

