

Caladiums

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One of the summer staples for color in the landscape, new caladium varieties are being developed to provide new colors and longevity in these traditional plants. In our **Exploration Gardens** we showcase almost twenty different caladium cultivars developed to grow in both shade and sun. These plants are easy to grow and will reward you with months of beautiful color.



Fig 1. Adding great color to shady areas.



Figure 2. Caladium bulb

Caladium can be purchased as either bulbs or as full size potted plants. When planting caladium bulbs, the growing point of the tuber needs to be planted toward the soil surface (see the pointed growing tip shown in Figure 2). These bulbs can simply be planted 1.5" to 2" deep as soon as springtime temperatures begin to warm.

Depending on the cultivar, you will begin to see small shoots emerging from the soil in 3-6 weeks after planting (Figure 3). These plants will need ample water to get established, but very minimal care throughout the summer months. Expect caladiums to produce their colorful leaves from April through September and add a low maintenance show of color that will make your yard the envy of the neighborhood.



Figure 3. New shoots

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