

CLIVIAS



Clivias are hardy plants and once their minimum requirements have been met, seem to be able to grow with little maintenance. They have very few major needs. Clivia can not tolerate temperatures that are below freezing, cannot handle frost or snow on their leaves, but will survive in temperatures that go down to a few degrees above freezing. In locations where there are cold winters, they will need to be moved indoors. Clivias should be grown in a shady spot.

Although these plants will live in areas exposed to early morning or late afternoon sun, direct sunlight will bleach and burn both the leaves and flowers. Finally, in order to flower well, they must be exposed to a drop in evening temperature for about two months in the fall. They are able to tolerate tropical temperatures and high humidity, but they will not flower well under these conditions. Clivias are a wonderful addition to your landscape and the ideal flowering plant, for those difficult shady areas.

PLANTING

When choosing a spot to plant your Clivias, keep in mind the arc of the sun changing from winter to summer. The spot should be a cool damp area with good drainage. You can plant Clivias directly in the soil or in movable containers. In landscaping, it is popular to plant next to walls or against a house where they are allowed to clump up and be permanent plants in the landscape. Clivias have shallow roots, which makes them perfect for planting around large shade trees. There is no need to dig a deep hole for your Clivias, the hole should be wider than deep. Roots should be planted no more than a few inches below the soil. When removing the plant from a container, uncoil the roots and spread them evenly in the hole then cover. If you have clay soil it is best to plant on a raised bed or a mound to allow better drainage. Clivias do not like to sit in water. If you are potting in a container, the container should have good drainage but still be able to retain moisture so the potting soil does not dry out too rapidly. You can fertilizer with a slow-release granular such as Osmocote 18-6-12. If you would like to learn more about Clivias, CLIVIAS by HAROLD KOPOWITZ is a great book.

