

easy weekend gardening

From the editors of Garden Gate® magazine



120
time-saving
garden
tips

The Secret to Gorgeous Gardens (In Just a Few Hours a Month)

Grow These!

- * Summer SHOWSTOPPERS
- * PROBLEM SOLVING Plants
- * PATHSIDE Flowers

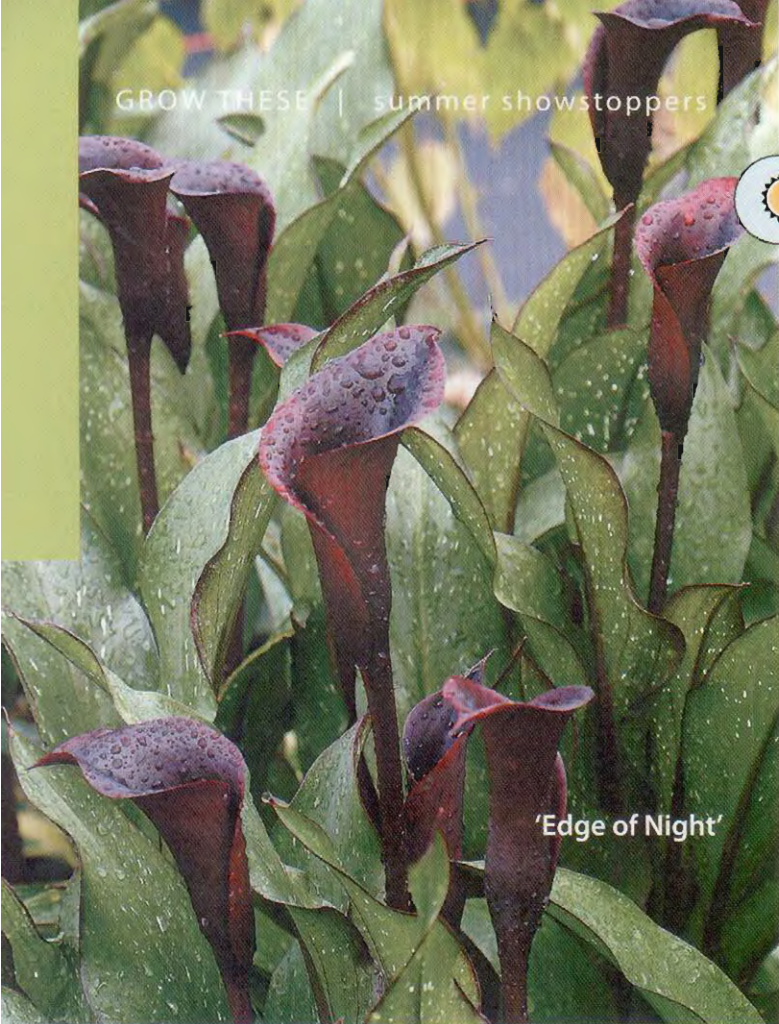
50+ Solutions for Busy Gardeners

LOW-CARE and
NO-CARE Garden Plans

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'Edge of Night'

Calla lily

Zantedeschia spp. and hybrids

Why you want it A staple in wedding bouquets, this tuber gives any garden an elegant appeal. Brightly colored "flowers" (it's technically a spathe, protecting very small, insignificant flowers) are available in shades from white to green, yellow, orange, pink and purple. 'Edge of Night' here is a mix of red, purple and black. Large foliage is shiny and often spotted.



How to grow it Calla lily likes part sun and moist soil. Plant tubers in a container indoors in early spring, and keep them growing indoors until temps stay above 60 degrees. Then move the pot outside, or transfer the tubers to the ground. They'll bloom from June to July (and some carry on until September). Calla lily gets 10 to 32 in. tall and 10 to 16 in. wide. It's cold-hardy in zones 7 to 10 and heat-tolerant in zones 10 to 1.

tip There are several species of calla lily, broken into two groups. *Z. aethiopica* and its hybrids prefer wet, boggy soil and bloom longer. The other species, including *Z. elliottiana* and its hybrids, tolerate a bit less moisture, but only bloom in midsummer.

PHOTO: Courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc. (calla lily)

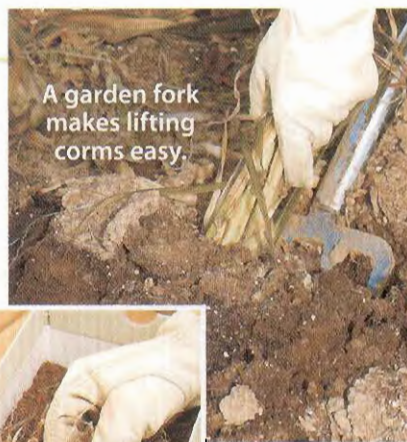
Warm in winter

All three plants on these two pages are relatively tender. But that doesn't mean you can't grow them in colder zones! In fact, you have several options: First, treat them as annuals. Or, if you don't want to buy new plants next year, pull the tubers or corms indoors to overwinter. Here's how it's done.

Get ready In early fall, before a hard frost arrives and damages your plant, dig up the tubers or corms. Cut back the foliage to 6 in. and brush off any loose clumps of soil. Then, set the tubers or corms in a warm, dry spot, like on a windowsill or potting bench, to dry for a few days. This ensures your plants won't rot in storage over the winter.

Tuck them in Tubers and corms will do best laid in a cardboard box or plastic tub that has small air holes punched into the lid. Line the container with an inch of peat moss, lay in the tubers or corms so they aren't touching, then give them a 1-in. blanket of peat moss. Store the box in a cool room, such as a basement or garage. Once a month over the winter, mist the top of the peat moss with water to keep it slightly moist.

Wake up In spring, after the last chance of frost has passed, pull the tubers and corms from their storage and brush off the peat moss. Plant them outdoors just as you did when they were new.



A garden fork makes lifting corms easy.



A shoebox makes a cozy winter home.



Replant in late spring, when the ground is easy to work.