Beehive Ginger ‘Honeycomb’ (Zingiber spectabile)

**Description**

As the name implies, this ginger is truly spectacular!

This ginger is very similar to the ‘Golden’ Beehive Ginger, but has orangey cones which age to red (instead of yellow). The beehive shaped bracts grow from the base of the plant on short spikes in summer. The cones open to produce brown and yellow spotted flowers - the resulting combination looks like bees in a hive, giving the plant its name.

The flowers slowly turn reddish with age, particularly if they get some sun (see pictures). The flowers are long lasting and around 10-15 cm long. Long lasting cut flower but most beautiful when left on plant.

Flowering occurs during spring/summer and lasts for about 4 months.

In the tropics, the plant grows year round, but (so I understand) naturally goes dormant in winter in cooler areas.

Beehive Ginger prefers filtered sunlight (morning sun is ok) and needs sufficient humidity to grow to a height of approximately 1.80m to 2.40m. Provide a moist, but free draining, rich and fertile soil.

Very cold hardy to Zone 9 – will grow from Perth to Sydney, and beyond if you provide the right microclimate.

**Planting instructions**

*Please plant as soon as possible after you receive the rhizome.*

We recommend establishing your plant in a pot, before planting in the garden.  

Your rhizome may have leaves, or the leaves may have been partially or completely removed to aid the plant’s health during travel.  If the leaves have been completely removed, the rhizome should still have growing ‘buds’ or new shoots as well as the leaf stem.

The rhizome should be planted with the top (leaf stem/new shoots/buds pointing upwards) no more than 3-4 cm under the soil.  New shoots or larger buds should be above the soil.  You can often look at the rhizome and see where the soil line had been while it was growing.

It is very important not to plant the rhizome too deep, as this will invite fungi and cause root rot. Freshly planted rhizomes need oxygen to grow new roots and will die if the planting medium is too dense or too wet.

After planting, water thoroughly, then do not water again until soil is getting dry.  Keep evenly moist, but not wet, when shoots to grow and leaves start to unfold.

If planted in pots, these should be of sufficient size - at least 10 to 15 cm wider than rhizome size. Keep the pots in a warm, sunny place. When leaves start to unfold the plants can be planted out - again in well drained soil.

A slow release fertilizer is ideal in the beginning. Larger and already established plants require more fertilizing and more water.