Red Torch Ginger (Etlingera elatior)

Description

This is a Red Torch Ginger. Torch gingers are also known as ‘Wax flowers’ or ‘Porcelain flowers’ and have incredibly striking flowers.

The plant grows to a height of two to four metres in full sun to partial shade. The leaves are glossy green above and maroon beneath. Stems also have a maroon colouring which adds to the ornamental beauty of this ginger.

The waxy flowers are produced separately on long stalks usually about 3 or 4 feet high (although they can grow to 6 feet high). The flower is as much as 25cm tall by 15cm wide. They make excellent cut flowers.

The plant requires two years of growth in humid warm climate for its profuse flowering.

An exceptional ginger for the garden or greenhouse, give it plenty of room to grow. Torch gingers need a warm climate or greenhouse. Best grown in full sun or light shade and they should be planted in rich soil.

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 will 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.