Purchased on eBay from meckms1

Heliconia ‘Golden Torch’
*Heliconia psittacorum x spathocircinata cv ‘Golden Torch’*
*(Rhizome)*

**Description**

‘Golden Torch’ grows up to 3 metres tall, with bright yellow flowering bracts, flowering all year round. The flowers make beautiful cut flowers which can last up to 3-4 weeks in water and will stay fresh on the stem even longer. Best when planted in large groups.

They will grow easily and quickly and you will soon have a good sized clump in the garden.

They are not frost tolerant.

**Cultivation**

Plant in humus-rich, well-drained soil in filtered sun. Water well during the growing season. To encourage new growth, remove all dead leaves and flowers.

**Planting instructions**

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

Ensure that the soil is appropriate for the plant, as described under ‘Cultivation’.

Your rhizome may have green 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.