

## Popular varieties and their colours

**Coral:** Orange yellow

**Diana:** Pink and white

**Dutch Pink:** Pink and greenish yellow

**Jacqueline:** Cerise pink with red and yellow

**Pink Perfection:** Strong pink with brown stripes

**Red Heat:** Reddish purple

**Scarlet Butterfly:** Red

**Sussex Gold:** Golden yellow with black stripes

Keep a look out as we are always getting new and exciting varieties.

Happy Gardening!

## Contact details:

For details and further information, come in to any GardenShop or call our GardenLine on 0860 100 403.

Alternatively, e-mail us at [info@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info@gardenshop.co.za) or log on to [www.gardenshop.co.za](http://www.gardenshop.co.za)

### **BRYANSTON**

Cnr Main and Halifax Roads, Bryanston, JHB.  
Tel: (011) 463-5773/4, Fax: (011) 463-5775  
e-mail: [info.btn@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info.btn@gardenshop.co.za)

### **PARKTOWN NORTH**

Cnr Jan Smuts Avenue and Bolton Road,  
Parktown North, JHB.  
Tel: (011) 447-2368, Fax: (011) 880-1640  
e-mail: [info.ptn@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info.ptn@gardenshop.co.za)

### **FOURWAYS**

Cnr William Nicol and Monte Casino Boulevard,  
Fourways, JHB.  
Tel: (011) 465-2226, Fax: (011) 465-2712  
e-mail: [info.fws@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info.fws@gardenshop.co.za)

### **CONSTANTIA**

Cnr Doordrift and Nursery Roads, Constantia, CT.  
Tel: (021) 794-5015, Fax: (021) 794-4653  
e-mail: [info.cta@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info.cta@gardenshop.co.za)



# Inca Lilies

An expert guide to the planting and care of Inca Lilies



**GardenCare**



## Introduction to Inca Lilies

Inca lilies or Alstroemaria hybrids, are colourful perennials worthy of a space in any garden. They produce a plentiful supply of flowers for the vase and look great planted amongst other plants. There are many different colours and sizes including dwarf-growing varieties available to suit any planting scheme.

## Growing conditions

Alstroemarias like to grow in full sun but they can take a little shade. The soil should be fairly rich and well drained. In the winter months when the plants die down, leave the dead leaves on the plant to act as a mulch for the dormant plant. In a mild winter the plants will not die down.

Plants can be divided and planted out after 3 years. This should be done between September and March.

## Planting

If you are planting a loose rhizome, it should be planted about 10cm under the surface of the soil. If planting an Inca Lily out of a bag, then be sure that the soil level around the plant is at the same level as the soil in the bed. Don't plant it too deep or too shallow.

It is best to space the plants about 40cm apart and to group the same colours together for the best effect. Plant them in soil that is well drained and has been well composted. When preparing the hole, add 2-3 spadefuls of compost and a small handful of 2:3:2 and superphosphate to the soil. Mix all of this well with the topsoil and then plant out the Inca Lily. Firm the soil down well around the plant and give it a good soaking to help it to settle. Be aware that over-watering the young plants can cause the leaves to turn yellow and the rhizomes will then start to rot.

## Watering

Inca Lilies should have plenty of water in the growing season. A deep watering once a week and two lighter waterings during the week will be most beneficial to your plant. Remember that each garden is different with different soil types and different microclimates, so before watering, check the soil to make sure that it is dry. During the winter months, watering can be cut down to a good soaking once a week.

## Fertilising

Inca Lilies will definitely benefit from regular feedings. The stem length will increase and the plant will produce

more flowers. Feed the plants monthly with one cup of 3:1:5 (SR) per m<sup>2</sup>.

When the flower buds begin to appear, apply 1 cup of 8:1:5 per m<sup>2</sup>. In the autumn months, apply a foliar spray of Multifeed or Nitrosol before the foliage dies down.

## Flowering

Inca lilies start to flower in late spring and will continue flowering into the autumn. They are ideal for adding a splash of colour or for planting in mixed borders. When removing the spent flowers or old stems, it is better to pull them out rather than cutting them off. This encourages the plant to produce more shoots. Cutting the stems seems to damage the tuber.

## Flower arranging

If you are cutting flowers for flower arranging, it is best to pull the flower stalks out and cut them to the desired length. Strip off the lower leaves and arrange the stems in a vase filled with cool water. To get the most out of the flowers, add a sachet of Chrysal Cut Flower Food to the water. Change the water in the vase every third day.