



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

Plant Care Guide

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



Caladium

(Caladium bicolor.)

The Caladium, also known as Elephant Ear or Angel Wings, is a tropical plant appreciated for its stunning, colorful foliage. Its heart-shaped leaves come in various shades of green, pink, red, or white, often with intricate patterns, making it a popular choice for decorative gardens and indoor spaces.



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Origin: South America, specifically the Amazon basin.

Care Level & Placement: Moderate, Caladiums can be grown both indoors and outdoors, depending on the climate. In colder regions, they are typically grown as indoor or container plants. Outdoors, they thrive in tropical and subtropical regions.



Light

Provide bright, indirect sunlight for indoor Caladiums. They prefer filtered light or dappled shade. Outdoors, they do well in partial to full shade. Avoid direct sunlight, which can scorch the leaves.



Water

Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Caladiums require regular watering, especially during the growing season. Allow the top inch of soil to dry out slightly between waterings. Reduce watering during their dormant period in the winter.



Soil

Plant Caladiums in a well-draining, peat-based potting mix for containers. In outdoor gardens, they prefer organically rich, loose soil with good drainage.



Fun fact

Caladium leaves are the stars of the show, as they are grown for their striking foliage rather than their flowers. These leaves come in various color combinations, making each plant a unique work of art.



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Pet Friendliness

Caladiums are considered toxic to pets if ingested. Keep them out of reach of cats and dogs.



Stress Signs

Wilting Leaves: If the leaves appear droopy or wilted, it's a sign that the plant needs water. Caladiums prefer consistently moist soil, so don't allow the soil to dry out completely.

Leaf Burn: If the leaves develop brown or crispy edges, it may be due to exposure to direct sunlight. Move the plant to a shadier location to prevent further leaf burn.

Yellowing Leaves: Yellowing leaves can indicate overwatering or poor drainage. Ensure that the pot has proper drainage, and adjust your watering routine to prevent waterlogged soil.



Botanical Family: Araceae

Botanical Name: Caladium bicolor.

Common Name: Elephant Ear, Angel Wings, Heart of Jesus.



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