



Photo: Janine Willis

**Common Names:**  
Garden Canna, Canna  
Lily

**Plant Type:** Annual,  
Tender Perennial

**Requirements:** Full  
Sun

**Height:** 3-6 ft  
dependent on variety

**Bloom Time:**  
Summer until Fall

**Hardiness Zones:**  
7-10

## Canna

Canna are plants belonging to the genus *Canna*, which includes about 10 species of herbaceous perennials that produce showy flowers on tall stems with large, paddle-shaped leaves. Many of the Canna sold today are hybrid plants that are most likely a cross between two species: *Canna indica* and *Canna glauca*, resulting in many different cultivars with a wide variety of flower colors and foliage variegation. These hybrids are all classified under the scientific name *Canna x generalis*. Hybrid canna are native to tropical and subtropical regions of North and South America and India.

Because of their striking beauty, Canna are one of the Community Beautification Program's most beloved plants. Pictured above are the two types of Canna we grow. In the foreground, the shorter, green-leafed variety are dwarf varieties of *Canna x generalis*. Behind those, the taller plants with bronze and orange variegated leaves are a variety of *Canna indica* called Tropicanna. Dwarf Canna tend to grow up to 3 feet tall and work equally well in the ground and in large containers. Tropicanna, on the other hand, can grow up to 6 feet tall, and are best grown in the ground due the large rhizomes they form.

Although one of their common names is Canna Lily, Cannas are not actually lilies. They are considered rhizomatous bulbs in the family Cannaceae. In our zone 6 climate, they must be lifted and stored in the fall, as they cannot survive the cold winters. Canna grow best in high heat, full sun, and consistently moist, well-draining soil.

### References:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/canna-x-generalis>.

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/canna-indica>.

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Canna>