



ALSTROEMERIA

Princess Lilies™

In Australia the best known and most widely grown alstroemerias are those known as Princess Lilies. These delightful compact plants will flower continuously from spring to late autumn provided their few needs are met. They make a great addition to borders and patio pots.

Even when not in flower Princess Lilies provide a strong neat compact mound of foliage.

Currently there are 13 varieties:

Anouska – purple flowers with a white centre

Angela – yellow flowers, late flowering

Camilla – white flowers, with yellow flecks

Ella – bright watermelon flowers

Ivana –purple, red flowers

Julietta – bi-coloured purple and white flowers

Monica – cream white flowers

Oxana – deep red with yellow spotted centre

Paola – bi-coloured peach and crimson flowers

Sara – bi-coloured orange and yellow flowers

Sissi – mid pink, early flowering

Zavina – rose pink with yellow centre

Zsa Zsa – dark pink, large flowers

Flowers

Princess Lilies will flower spring, summer and autumn.

Height

These varieties typically grow to only 30-40cm tall and with a spread of 40cm.

Planting

In cooler southern areas Princess Lilies will flower well in partly shaded to full sun positions while in warmer northern areas they will tolerate full sun in spring and autumn but will need protection from the hot summer sun. In hotter areas, position your alstroemerias so they can be partly shaded by the canopy of a tree, a building or tree during summer. Princess Lilies make perfect pot plants for patios and courtyards. Plant into large containers, either by themselves or with other perennials using a premium potting mix. For optimum performance position the plants so they receive bright light or full sun in spring and autumn then move them to a site with dappled shade during summer.

Ensure that the crown of the plant (the place where new shoots arise) is not buried too deeply when planting as this can lead to rotting and possibly death of the plant.

Watering

In spite of their delicate appearance Princess Lilies are surprisingly drought tolerant due to the water they are able to store in their fleshy root system. However, keep

plants evenly moist before and during the flowering period and apply mulch to keep the roots cool. This will help prolong flowering into late autumn. If plants stop flowering during summer it is best to ease off with the watering, as too much water when the plants are slowing down can lead to rotting.

Fertiliser

Alstroemerias are heavy feeders and need regular applications of fertiliser to maintain prolific flowering. You can use a complete liquid fertiliser at the rate recommended by the manufacturer or try one of the slow release fertilisers specially formulated for flowering plants. Apply a handful at the start of winter and another in mid-spring.

Pruning

Princess Lilies continually produce new shoots to replace those that have finished flowering. These old flower shoots should be removed regularly and this can be done by simultaneously twisting and pulling the old stems away from the main plant. Grabbing the shoot usually ensures its complete removal.

As with their taller cousins, Princess Lilies can be used for indoor decoration. Simply cut the flower stems at just below soil level when the first or second flower on the stem has opened.

Pests and Diseases

There are no significant pests or diseases in garden situations.