

As long as the plant is cool but does not freeze, receives bright indirect sunlight and gets occasional watering, dormancy will be achieved. Many growers use a partially heated garage (bringing the plant indoors when it's really cold), a spare room kept cool, or a cool basement area to create dormancy. Some varieties do not require dormancy to initiate blooming. In those few varieties, dormancy will create much more impressive blossoms.

Insects. Most insects tend to stay away from Clivia. Mealybugs, armored Scale and fungus gnats are the rare exceptions. Overwatering causes fungus gnats. Mealybugs and Scale are introduced when other plants bring the pest in contact with your Clivia. While Clivias tolerate a wide range of chemical insecticides, Permethrin, neem oil, and phosphate soaps are usually labeled for safe indoor use, and are effective against insects on Clivias. Multiple applications will probably be required. Read and follow all label instructions.

Disease. Although unusual, the most common disease of Clivias is root rot. This is caused by overwatering. A proper watering program will prevent problems. A wide range of fungicides can be used to prevent and cure problems. Read and follow all label instructions.

Bare Root Plants. Most of Colorado Clivia's plants are shipped to customers bare root. When you receive a bare root plant, open the box immediately and carefully remove the plant from the packaging. Large plants are typically tied into the box. Place the root ball in a bucket of clean water and allow it to re-hydrate for a couple of hours to overnight. Then pot the plant in its permanent soil media and pot. Often times Clivia need to be staked or caged upright until they settle into the soil, usually a month or two after repotting. Then the supports can be removed.

Enjoy your new plant.

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Colorado Clivia Company's

Grower's Guide

for

Clivia miniata,
Clivia caulescens,
Clivia nobilis,
Clivia robusta
and
Clivia gardenii

Clivias are undeniably the aristocrats of horticulture. They are classed among the most desirable of all connoisseur plants, offering not only spectacular flowers, but also interesting variations in both leaf variegation and plant form. The plants are easy to care for, and make an ideal houseplant.

Depending on the size of your plant and its growing conditions, a Clivia will add four to six leaves per year. Maturity and flowering will occur after 13 leaves have grown--typically in three to five years. After the first flowering, subsequent flowerings tend to be larger and more spectacular.

Clivia gardenii and robusta varieties usually bloom in the fall/early winter. Clivia miniata and sometimes nobilis varieties usually bloom in the late winter/early spring. Clivia caulescens bloom sporadically.

Caring for a Clivia

Clivias are easy to care for and can thrive under a variety of conditions. Listed here are our general recommendations and an outline of the specific processes we use. Growers can adopt these processes or develop their own, and still be very successful growers of Clivias.

Colors. Most Clivia *miniata* have one or sometimes two large multi-blossom, orange flowered, umbels. Through selective breeding, yellow, red, bronze, peach, apricot, pink, cream, and other specialty colored flowers are possible. Colors other than orange are rarer and significantly more difficult to breed. Variegated leaves are also possible. *Miniata* blossoms are trumpet shaped, while blossoms of the other five species of Clivia are pendulous and tubular in varying configurations.

Sunlight. Full shade/bright indirect sunlight (indoors or outdoors) is best. If given too much light, the leaves will become sunburned. Clivias do very well in home or office settings when they are placed in a bright room, in locations with a limited amount of direct sunlight, or in offices with typical fluorescent lighting. Our clear glazed greenhouse is equipped with 85% shade cloth due to Colorado's mile high elevation (because less sun is filtered out by the atmosphere).

Temperature. Normal indoor household temperatures and outdoor summer temperatures are ideal. **Do not freeze Clivias.** Our greenhouse is set to cool to 83°F and heat to 47°F year round.

Pots. Slightly root-bound Clivias are more likely to flower. Porous clay pots with drainage holes help mitigate, but not solve problems with over watering and are ideal. If watering is controlled and a very porous soil mixture is used, other pot types can be used successfully. Bottom drainage holes are mandatory. Do not place pots in saucers with standing water. The pot should always be able to drain freely. When repotting only go up 1 or 2 sizes from the current pot size. Colorado Clivia prefers to use standard clay pots for our plants.

Water. Water only when the soil has dried out from the last watering. Do not let the clivia stand in water. Water early in the day to prevent leaf rot. When you think it is time to water, place your index finger into the soil. If the soil is only slightly damp approximately 1½ inches down from the surface then it is time to water. If the soil is wet, wait a day or two and try again. During different times of the year, you will have to water more or less often.

Fertilizer. Clivias respond well to the application of fertilizer. Slow release granules, periodic chemical fertilizer applications, or natural fertilizer applications are all successful in providing nutrients. We recommend a fertilizer with micro-nutrients, and applied using label directions. Over the years, we have successfully used as our standard fertilizer program cow manure, fish fertilizer, seaweed fertilizer, and chemical fertilizers in the 10-10-10, 20-20-20, 15-5-25, and 15-5-15 formulations. We use the standard fertilizer program from January to September. In October we switch to a similar dilution of high bloom fertilizer. In November and December we only use clear water/no fertilizer. If chemical fertilizer is used, we recommend periodically flushing the salts out of the soil using clear water.

Soil. Soil for Clivias must provide excellent drainage, have high aeration characteristics, be porous, and be slightly acid. A medium course, bark based, orchid mix is ideal. Also acceptable are various Cactus mixes. Avoid 100% peat moss potting soils, as they retain too much water. When using bark based soil mixes, completely change the soil every several years. The mix we use is 80% ¼ to ½ inch pine bark chips, 5% peat moss and 15% perlite.

Water--Soil--Fertilizer Balance. Organic soil mixes, such as those containing bark, are naturally acidic. Water across the United States can range from almost distilled (very soft) to almost brackish (very hard). Soft water has little influence on soil pH, while hard water helps create basic pH soil. Chemical fertilizers can range from basic to acidic. The combination of all three items in the pot will determine the overall pH experienced by the plant. Clivias prefer a slightly acidic soil environment, a pH of 6.5 to be exact (7.0 being neutral). A soil environment that is too acid will cause micro-nutrient toxicity and damage your plant. If you use an organic soil mix and have slightly hard water, then a somewhat acid fertilizer is appropriate. In Colorado we have very soft water and use a slightly basic fertilizer, the bark soil mix provides the little bit of acid. Specifically we use Jack's 15-5-15 with extra calcium and magnesium. Depending on your water, you may need to adjust your fertilizer.

Dormancy. An eight week dormancy period of 50°F or lower night time temperatures starting about Nov. 15, will induce flowering in the early spring. Flowering is also encouraged by no fertilizer and limited watering during this dormancy period.