



THE HELICONIA GUY
38 Mountaintrack Drive
Wamuran QLD 4512
theheliconiaguy@gmail.com
ABN: 63 438 567 917
Don Rogers 0418 666 310

HELICONIA GENERAL CARE INFORMATION

Thank you for purchasing Heliconia's from THE HELICONIA GUY. This is a general guide to help you grow magnificent Heliconias in your garden.

SOILS – Heliconias are tolerant of a wide range of soil types, however they perform best in rich organic soils that are free-draining. Composted materials, premium organic soil mix, enriched blended soil are best. Heliconias prefer a soil PH of 6-6.5

FERTILIZING – Regular fertilizing in the warmer months (Oct-May) is highly beneficial. Option 1 is using products like blood & bone, organic link or dynamic lifter at the base of plants is great. Option 2 is the use of liquid fertilizers direct onto the leaves of the plants (this is the preferred method). Products such as Seasol, Powerfeed or Nitrosol are the better ones, they encourage green foliage and flower production.

MULCHING – Mulching helps maintain consistent soil temperature, retain water and impede weed growth. Light mulches such as hay, lucerne and cane are ideal.

WATERING – New plants need to be watered 2-3 times a week (adjust if there has been rain). Only water as required as Heliconia's do not like to have wet roots. As a general guide during summer months water 2-3 times per week, in winter back the water right off to once a fortnight or none at all if there's rain. COLD + WET conditions together can adversely affect Heliconias so do not overwater in cold weather.

PRUNING – A Heliconia stem will only produce one flower, you can leave on the plant until it withers and then cut off about 10-15cm above ground, or you can cut when the flower opens up to use in a vase (lasts 10-21 days in a vase). Cutting the

stem back like this will promote new growth and flower production. Heliconias benefit from the removal of dried, withered or damaged stems. Any significant pruning/division of plants is best done in spring and avoided totally during the cold months.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS –

COLD DAMAGE -During winter months the leaves can yellow slightly or get leaf spots (rust), especially if the overnight temperatures in your region get very low. Turn off the water. Think about planting your Heliconias somewhere where they will receive direct winter sun. Prepare the plants for winter by spraying with “neem oil” or similar in late autumn to prevent fungus/rust. If the leaves do yellow during winter it is best to leave until spring (consistent warmer days) and then prune the affected leaves/stems back as required, they will reshoot quickly.

WIND DAMAGE – With large, banana like, leaves the Heliconias can tear in strong winds. You can consider planting in a protected spot out of direct winds or choose more robust varieties that withstand higher wind conditions.

Thanks again for your purchase, Happy Gardening.

Regards

The Heliconia Guy (Don Rogers)

NB. All advice is general in nature to Heliconias, your location and the variety of Heliconia you planted needs to be considered when following this care information