Florida Sweetheart Caladium

Caladium 'Florida Sweetheart'



Florida Sweetheart Caladium foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Angel Wings, Elephant Ears

Description:

This stunning variety produces rose pink leaves with red veins, framed by green edges; a short, compact habit with ruffled or twisted leaves; great for contaiers or hanging baskets, or as a garden accent

Ornamental Features

Florida Sweetheart Caladium's attractive twisted heart-shaped leaves remain rose in color with distinctive red veins and tinges of green throughout the season on a plant with a mounded habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Florida Sweetheart Caladium is a dense herbaceous annual with a mounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Florida Sweetheart Caladium is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Florida Sweetheart Caladium will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Florida Sweetheart Caladium is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.