



Crocosmia

Crocosmia are a popular and attractive flowering bulb. Native to South Africa, Crocosmia are members of the Iris family. They are easy to grow. The plants grow two to four feet tall in a season. Tube shaped flower colors include red, yellow, orange-yellow, and orange with splotches. Flowers bloom from July-October.

Crocosmia grow well in the flower garden and in containers on patios or decks.

Propagation:

While people talk about Crocosmia "bulbs", they are really grown from corms. The corms are best planted in the fall for blooms the following spring.

Crocosmia can also be started from seeds. Plant seeds in seed trays, about 1/4" deep, in seed starting soil. Seedlings can be transplanted outdoors in late spring.

After three or four years, dig up and divide the corms in the fall. Replant the corms, giving them more space to grow big and bright blooms next year.

How to Grow Crocosmia:

Crocosmia are easy to grow. They grow best in full sun and plant in rich, loose garden soil. If the soil is heavy or doesn't drain well, mix in a generous amount of sand. Plant corms four to five inches deep, and four inches apart, water during planting, only if the soil is dry. Keep soil moist, not wet. Add fertilizer only if the soil is poor.

Plants will grow two to four feet tall, and begin to produce flowers in the summer.

If growing Crocosmia in containers, select a large pot with drainage holes. Keep well watered. Add fertilizer regularly for best growth.

After the plants have died back in the fall, they can be cut and removed to the ground. In cold areas, add a generous amount of mulch to protect the corms from freezing. Or, dig them up and store them for replanting in the spring.

Insects and Disease:

You should experience few problems with your Crocosmia. Use insecticide or fungicide only if a problem occurs.