

Cordyline Australis

Technical Bulletin CA01/11



INTRODUCTION

Cordyline australis, or Cabbage tree is the most cold-hardy Cordyline species. It will tolerate temperatures in the low 20's °F / - 5 °C or occasionally lower. This variety is also quite drought tolerant.

Cordyline australis varieties can handle hot sun and will grow in difficult soils that are low in organic material. The brighter colors do better with a touch of shade in hot, desert landscapes. Over time many cultivars can reach 25' / 8m tall.

New cultivars come with brick red leaves, stripes and one is even a brilliant hot pink in leaf. These Cordyline bloom with the typical clustered white or pale, tinted flowers, but are grown more for their decorative leaves and sculptural habit of growth.

CROP TIMING:	36 - 48 Weeks (saleable pot only)	SOIL MEDIA PH:	5.8-6.2
SOIL MEDIA EC:	1.8-2.2	CONTAINER SIZE:	2.5 to 4 L / 1 gallon
TEMPERATURE:	Day 18°C-25°C / Night 10°C-15°C Day 65°F-70°F / Night 50°F-60°F	WHEN TO PLANT:	Spring
LIGHT LEVEL:	High	GROWTH RATE:	Slow

TRANSFER OF INVITRO CORDYLINE

1. Growing containers

- Plants should be planted ex agar into 98 cell growing trays or 5cm liners (see pictures).
- Place liners under porous blanket such as "Evolution" or "Frost Cloth" for 3-7 days.

This is to allow build up of wax surface on the leaf to counter dehydration and the plant to establish new roots.

- Irrigate directly through "Evolution" gently ensuring plants do not become too wet. Check regularly beneath the "Evolution" to ensure the water is penetrating. Do not let plants dry out.
- Remove "Evolution" after 3-7 days.
- Water with fine mist sprinklers 3 - 4 times per day

2. Growing Area

- Place plants in ventilated greenhouse for at least 3-4 weeks after transfer. Outside growing is OK but not recommended. Young plants ex TC transfer are very tender and require careful attention.
- Use simple overhead irrigation system with soft spray pattern. Heavy droplets are not recommended after transfer.
- Apply foliar fertilizer via irrigation system or portable sprayer, either as controlled daily dose or weekly fertigation.
- After 4 – 6 weeks under greenhouse conditions, plants can be transferred into 1 gallon /2.5 to 4 litre pots outside, provided environment is suitable: **USDA Minimum Hardiness Zone 8**

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MANAGEMENT OF POTS

- a) When new roots begin to appear, 2-3 weeks after planting, drench with appropriate root development fertilizer. Repeat two weeks later.
- a) Dependent on base fertilizer levels in potting mix, weekly applications of foliar/liquid feed may be advantageous.
- b) Spray with fungicide/Insecticide every 10-14 days.



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