

## 10" Caladium Baskets

In the spring of 2013 a number of Caladium varieties were trialed as to their suitability for 11" hanging baskets. Bulbs of all varieties were planted on the same day to determine which varieties would finish nicely and with reasonable crop time. All baskets had 6ea #1 bulbs with one in the center and 5 on the perimeter. Three baskets of each variety were trialed. Two baskets contained de-eyed bulbs and one contained non de-eyed bulbs. All pots were grown in Avon Park, FL and potted on 3/13/13. Results were recorded when pots were finished from 4/14-5/13/13. All pots were started in a germination room for 2 weeks at 70-87°F and then moved and grown in a 30% shade house at temperatures ranging from 57°F nights to 92°F days. All pots were fertilized with a 90 day 16-6-12 controlled release Harrell's fertilizer. No PGR's were used. Basket suggestions for a limited number of caladium varieties could be made based on the results. Pictures were taken of the finished baskets. Spacing for the trial baskets was at 14" X 14". Overall habit depended on many factors including among others variety, spacing, light levels, and de-eyeing. Habits included foliage that was either upright (most of the fancy leaved varieties) or mounded (many of the strap leaf varieties).

Varieties trialed include the following:

### **Fancy leaved varieties trialed**

Fantasy  
Kathleen  
Frieda Hemple  
Moonlight  
Pink Beauty  
Pink Splash  
Rose Glow  
Summer Breeze

### **Strap leaved varieties included**

Blushing Bride  
Candyland  
Cherry Tart  
Lance Whorton  
Miss Muffet  
Peppermint  
Red Frill  
Red Ruffles  
Rosemary  
Starburst  
Sweetheart  
White Delight  
White Diamond  
White Dynasty  
White Majesty  
White Pearl  
White Star  
White Wonder

Results and suggested varieties for baskets are on the attached spreadsheets.

**General conclusions include:**

- 1) Many fancy leaved and most strap leaved varieties work well as hanging baskets.
- 2) De-eyeing affects the overall look/habit of the finished product. Foliage of the varieties can either be upright (most fancy varieties) or mounded (most strap varieties).
- 3) Many varieties work well but strap varieties with mounded habits over all received the most positive comments. Habits with width to height ratios (width/height)  $\geq 1$  had the best overall presentations.
- 4) In general de-eyed baskets were more balanced and fuller. Further, de-eyeing removed flower primordial in the dominant apical eyes.

**All photographs are of baskets with de-eyed bulbs:**

**Fancy Leaved Varieties**



**Fantasy**



**Kathleen**



**Frieda Hemple**



**Moonlight**

**Fancy leaved varieties:**



**Pink Splash**



**Rose Glow**



**Summer Breeze**

**Strap Leaved Varieties**



**Blushing Bride**



**Candyland**

**Strap Leaved Varieties**



**Cherry Tart**



**Lance Whorton**



**Miss Muffet**



**Peppermint**



**Red Frill**



**Red Ruffles**

**Strap Leaved Varieties**



**Rosemary**



**Starburst**



**Sweetheart**



**White Delight**



**White Diamond**



**White Dynasty**

**Strap Leaved Varieties**



**White Majesty**



**White Pearl**



**White Star**



**White Wonder**