

Rare plants for home and garden

Top Tropicals

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Cananga odorata (Ylangylang) and Cananga fruticosa (Dwarf ylang-ylang) special instructions

Both Cananga odorata (Ylang-ylang tree) and Cananga fruticosa (Dwarf Ylang-ylang) are rainforest tropical trees. They are thrive best in warm, high humidity environment.

During shipment some leaves might drop or turn yellow/brown/black because of possible overheating and lack of humidity during transportation. Sometimes we trim the tree to fit shipping size and to decrease the burden for the plant.

Once your plant is arrived, pot it immediately in smallest pot (don't worry, you will move it in larger pot or plant in the ground after it recovers after the stress) with a well-drained potting mix. Water well and place the pot in a bright shade location. Placing a water tray with pebbles under the pot will be helpful to maintain higher level of humidity, as well as frequent misting.

If you grow this plant indoors with air conditioning, it might die easily, no matter what humidity you have outside. The AC greatly reduced humidity (that's one of the purposes of it's use). Your indoor humidity might drop 30% and lower, which may be fatal for the plant.

It usually takes a week or two for Cananga to recover from transportation stress. If the stem got a little bent from being in the box, it will straighten up in a few days. If you provide the right conditions and proper care, Cananga tree will sprout new growth in a few weeks.

If you noticed leaves turning brown or black - that means, humidity level is too low. Another important factor: avoid too big of a difference in day/night temperatures.

Apply 1/2 doze of blooming grade water soluble fertilizer (12-50-14 or similar) once a month to encourage blooming during warm season.

Growing Cananga odorata requires some experience, please be patient and careful with your plant. If you bought Ylang-ylang, then keep keep in mind that it will take 1-2-3 years for the tree to bloom. Dwarf Ylang-ylang plants are ready to bloom right away, just keep in mind:

- Flowers only fragrant when they're golden-yellow color. Immature flowers aren't fragrant at at all 1)
- 2) Flowers are fragrant after dark, when temperature is high (above 80F) and humidity is high as well. Flowers don't produce any scent at 75F in A/C cooled room. These flowers are pollinated by night insects, which are ative only when hot and humid
- 3) Small plants, plants in stress aren't fragrant. Give them time to establish and they will reward you with wonderful fragrance.