

Red Hot Poker

(Kniphofia uvaria)

Planting Instructions

SOIL PREPARATION: Choose a location to plant your bulbs that is protected from the wind. Rototill or spade the location to a depth of 10 inches. Red hot pokers grow well in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soils but are intolerant of wet soils.

PLANTING: These bulbs prefer full sun. Plant 24 inches apart and 2–3 inches deep. Place your bulb in the hole with the pointy end up and cover with soil.

MULCHING: Mulch in extreme climates.

STORAGE: If bulbs can't be planted immediately, store in a cool, dry place until ready to plant.

IN ZONES 2–5, DIG UP BULBS AFTER FOLIAGE WILTS IN FALL: Remove moisture and/or wet soil from the bulbs and store in a dry place at about 50–55 degrees F. Replant in spring after the last frost of the season.

IN ZONE 10, PLANT INDOORS: Due to hot temperatures, it is best to plant your bulbs in a pot indoors, using a mixture of potting soil, sand, and peat moss. Make sure the container has good drainage. Arrange bulbs close together with their tips sticking out of the soil. Make sure that the soil underneath is loose to encourage roots to grow quickly. Water the soil. Chill bulbs for 12 weeks between 35 and 45 degrees in a dark, cool (but not below freezing) place like a garage, basement, or shed — or in the refrigerator. Most bulbs should have blooms two to four weeks after chilling if you follow these steps: When shoots appear, take the container to a slightly warmer place (about 60 degrees), and give it indirect light until leaves are about 3 to 5 inches tall and flowerbuds appear. Then move the container to a warm, sunny spot (about 70 degrees). When the flowers open up, place them out of direct sunlight.

CAUTION: Keep out of reach of children. Some plant material is not edible. While most plants are harmless to individuals and animals, some may contain substances that are toxic, which can lead to nausea, dizziness, headaches, or other uneasiness or discomfort. The only plant materials that should be ingested or eaten are fruits or other known food plants. Contact your local poison control center immediately if ingested and advise them of the ingested plant.