

Plant Cultivation Notes

Introduction.

Hedychium are rhizomatous perennials from the Ginger (Zingiberaceae) family. They are native to South East Asia, India, China, Tropical Asia and the Himalayas. For UK gardens it is best to stick with the Hedychium from Northern India, China and Nepalese Himalayas.

Hedychium like well drained soil rich in organic matter. They grow best in part sun, with some shade at midday. They do require water when in growth and are quite hungry plants. Hedychium are not particularly fussy about soil type, but we find a slightly acidic soil works well.

Hedychium are deciduous in the UK and remain dormant under ground from November to late April.



Hedychium coccinum 'Tara'

Buying Hedychium

We offer Hedychium from late March as bare root dormant rhizomes and then as Growing rhizomes from Mid May onwards. We dispatch growing rhizomes either in pots up to 1.5 litre or larger rhizomes are sent out minus pot and wrapped in coir and paper.

Dormant Hedychium rhizomes should be soaked for a few hours and then potted up in a well drained compost and placed in a warm bright place, like a green house. Growing Rhizomes should be planted up or planted out immediately on arrival.



Cultivation

It is important to realise that in their natural habitat, Hedychium come into growth during the monsoon rains and then become dormant during the dry winter seasons. This is obviously the opposite in UK climates. So anything to help your Gingers deal with this topsy turvy environment is advisable.

Hardy Hedychium are best grown in the ground. Grow in well drained soil, rich in organic matter. Add grit to help with winter wetness and water in the summer when dry. Choose a position in part sun and preferably sheltered from high winds and remember as late starters, Hedychium need their own spot. Plant tubers with growing points about 10cm below the surface

Cultivation continued:

And remember to leave space between rhizomes when planting several. Hedychiums do grow outwards and the rhizomes spread slowly over an area. Once planted Hedychiums need only a little attention. Mulch with organic matter in spring this helps feed the plants and reduces water loss from the soil. Water well when the first stems appear and also when dry weather persists. A liquid feed is beneficial once a month during the growing season. When winter approaches and the air cools, Hedychiums will start to look a little ragged. Resist cutting the stems back, instead wait until the whole stem has collapsed and fallen away from the rhizome, then mulch the area with dry bark chip. Growing Hedychium in pots is possible, particularly with some of the smaller species. Pot grown plants need yearly refreshment with new soil and sometimes division. Pots need to be big, but movable, because pot grown gingers need the winter protection of a frost free greenhouse or similar.



Hedychium spicatum



Hedychium densiflorum 'Assam Orange'

Five of the best Hedychium to grow.

1/ **Hedychium coccinum 'Tara'.**

Growing to 150cm with large displays of red and orange flowers.

2/ **Hedychium spicatum .**

One of the hardiest. Grows to 90cm with delicate white flowers, tinged with pinks.

3/ **Hedychium coronarium.**

Scented white flowers on stems to 100cm .
Needs a thick mulch in winter.

4/ **Hedychium densiflorum 'Assam Orange'**

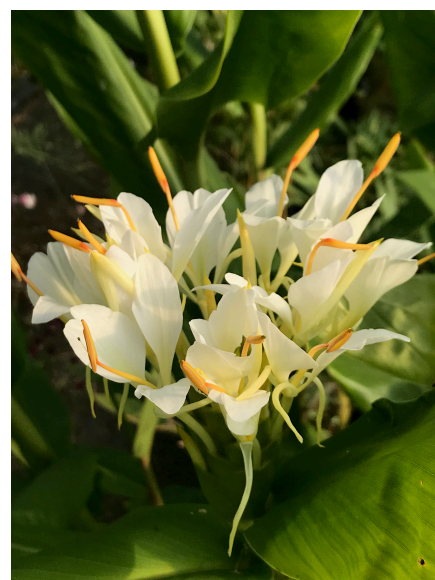
Very hardy and reliable ginger with dense orange flower stems.

5/ **Hedychium densiflorum 'Stephen'**

Very hardy and beautifully scented cream & peach flowers on stems to 120cm.

Planting companions.

Hedychiums are great in any exotic planting scheme. They work well with Musa (Banana), Canna lily, Dahlia, Palms and other 'Hardy Exotics' . It is also worth thinking about some of the other Gingers available. Cautleya spicata is just as hardy and exotic and reliably flowers early. Roscoea also in the Ginger family and come in many shapes, colours and sizes. In pots Hedychium can be planted with trailing Begonia and overwintered together



Hedychium coronarium

