

Calathea makoyana

(Peacock Plant)

Calatheas are about 300 species of evergreen, rhizomatous perennials from tropical Central and South America. Most form clumps and slowly spread from the tubers or rhizomes We grow Calateas for their ornately leaves. The large shiny leaves are elliptical to oval and often marked with blotches, streaks or stripes of color. They are waxy, light to dark green and often backed with red or purple. Calathea flowers are inconspicuous and usually produced in pairs among the leaves. The fruit is an insignificant capsule. These tropical plants are grown outside only in the warmest most humid locations. They prefer rich high organic soil with good drainage. As soon as the humidity drops the leaves start dropping or turning brown. They need moderate light. It performs well in a container on a deck or patio in the shade.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Calathea, Plante paon

Pronunciation: ka-LAY-thee-uh

Plant Type: Groundcover

Origin: Tropical America

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Indoor, Container, Shade, Ground cover, Green Wall

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Spreading, Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: Less than 0.5 m

Spread at Maturity: Less than 50 cm

Time to Ultimate Height: 2 to 5 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Spiral

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 10 - 20

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Leathery, Glossy

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green, Purple, Variegated

Color(changing season): Green, Purple, Variegated

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 3 - 7

Flower Type: Panicle

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Year Round

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Year Round

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: No

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: High, Moderate

Light Requirements: Part, Shade

Management

Toxicity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: Yes

Life Span: Less than 25

Diseases: Leaf Spots

Edible Parts: None

Pests: Mites, Nematodes, Scales

Plant Propagations: Division

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Fruit Image