



Cobra Lily (Darlingtonia)

The Cobra Lily is a plant that some people find hard to grow. It forms a rosette from which the traps spiral upwards. It will produce a lot of smaller traps and then suddenly send up one or two larger upright traps.

WHERE TO GROW THEM

Growing naturally along mountain stream sides, they do like the roots to be kept cool. For this reason they will not tolerate the heat that a Trumpet Pitcher will and do not suit a very hot conservatory. They do like slightly dappled shade and grow well outside if sheltered. If grown in a greenhouse, do make sure they are in the shadier part or near the door or vent to keep them cooler in the summer. Try to keep full sun from shining directly onto the pot particularly if kept on a windowsill. Placing other smaller pots in front of it, or putting the plant pot inside another pot will help achieve this.



WATER

Stand the pot in a tray or saucer of water at a depth of 2-3 cm. They need rainwater, soft water or distilled water. Try to avoid hard tap water, but remember that if you have run out of water, tap water is better than nothing occasionally. Further information is available on our website under the Care Guides section about which water is and isn't suitable.

GROWING ON



The Cobra Lily produces runners from the roots as it grows. If grown in a large pot or bowl (a washing up bowl is ideal) the runners have room to roam. Once the top of the pot becomes full, you should think about potting on into a larger pot or removing the runners and dividing the plant. Use Trumpet Pitcher compost or Supersphag blocks.

WINTER CARE

In winter the Cobra Lily will like to be quite cold and can be kept outside for most winters, but a cold greenhouse is ideal with a little protection from the rain. A hard frost will not hurt. As the traps get older and full of flies they will go brown. Some traps will stay over winter but eventually will die back and can be cut off.

PESTS AND DISEASES

There are very few pests and diseases that they seem to suffer from.

Watch for greenfly in spring and botrytis or rotting in winter. Unless it is outside, keep the plant just damp rather than too wet in winter and make sure it is in a well ventilated position to help prevent waterlogging.