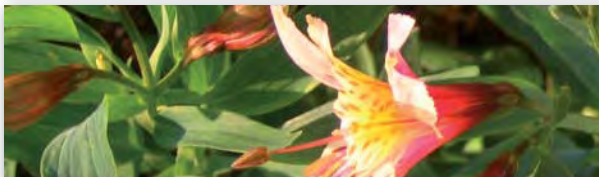


2.7 Pest and diseases

The plants are susceptible to the general insect pest, bacteria, fungus and viral diseases. However, not serious problems are experienced in this regard. It is always important to sterilize the soil beforehand in order to reduce the incidence of disease. Alstroemeria are said to be very sensitive to toxins and tried and tested remedies should be used.

2.8 Harvesting method

Harvesting should be done in summer when the first buds open and flowers have a good colour. To avoid damage harvested cut flowers should not be placed too densely, and must be placed in deep water immediately. It is recommended pulling the stalk out of the rhizome with a rapid upward picking, instead of cutting it off.



3. Uses

Alstroemeria can serve as lovely line flowers in more contemporary arrangement.

4. Contact Details

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5. References

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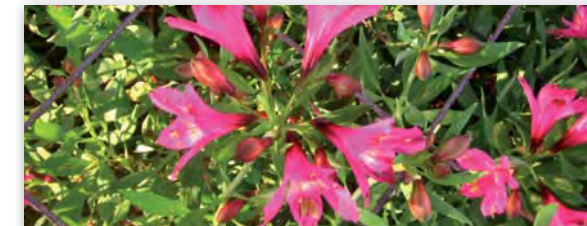
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Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



Alstroemeria

Inca lily



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Classification

Kingdom:	Plantae
Family:	Alstroemeriaceae Dumort (Lilliaceae)
Genus:	Alstroemeria L- Lily of the Incas
Common names:	Peruvian Lily, Alstroemeria

1. Background

1.1 Origin and distribution

The Alstroemeria family originates in South America, especially Chili, Peru and Brazil. In the middle sixties, Alstroemeria was for the first time planted in Western Europe. Production of cut-Alstroemeria in South Africa is widespread and is chiefly centered around North West, Western Cape and Gauteng. Areas presently under Alstroemeria production are Hekpoort-Rustenburg, Elgin-Cape town, Brits-North west and Lynwood rift-Gauteng- Pretoria.

1.2 Temperature and soil requirements

1.2.1 TEMPERATURE

The influence of soil temperature in Alstroemeria is of high importance. Alstroemeria cultivars are sensitive to high temperatures, therefore soil temperature above 20 °C must be avoided at all cost, because they inhibit and reduce the flower induction. The

flower development occurs at temperatures between 14-20 °C. Alstroemeria does best when humidity is between 65- 85%.

1.2.2 SOIL REQUIREMENTS

Alstroemeria grows well in light, well drained and slightly acidic soil for the succulent roots to develop freely. The recommended pH is between 5, 5 to 6, 5.

2. Cultural practices

2.1 Soil preparation

For proper growth the soil must be cultivated to a depth of 450 mm depth after the application of manure. For cut flower production soil should be sterilized with methyl bromide or steam. It is also important to apply sufficient compost during soil preparation. Each spring the plants should receive a good covering of compost.

2.2 Propagation

Alstroemeria can be propagated in two different ways namely: by Division and Seeds. For proper germination seed must be sown in spring. Sow in plastic trays or pots in a good pot soil mixture and keep it moist. Seedlings can be transplanted once the seedlings are 80mm high, this usually occurs during the next spring season.

2.3 Planting

Alstroemeria's needs to be planted where there is direct sunlight for most of the day. However the soil should have a good drainage system. These plants need a lot of sun, but they also can't have soil that

stays very damp for long periods of time. When you place the plants into the ground only dig a hole big enough so it fits the plant perfectly, so how ever big the plant container size is should be how deep you plant it.

For the placement of the plants ensure that they are approximately one meter apart so that it allows the opportunity for growth. You should also consider placing mulch around them but avoid placing it on top.

2.4 Fertilization

Fertilizer must be applied according to soil analysis results. High amount of well rooted compost is essential, and an additional application of 2:3:3 should be applied when the flower buds are formed and the second should be applied after flowering. Potassium supplement at flowering time is important for a long vase life.

2.5 Irrigation

Water supply is essential after planting to ensure proper root development. Too much water after planting will result in rotting of the plants.

2.6 Trellising

Some cultivars may reach a height of up to 2m and it is therefore necessary to support the plants. Various materials may be used to support the plant, however galvanized or plastic mesh with a mesh size of at least 200 mm sq is recommended.