

## Ginger species

Gingers like moist well-composted soil in part to heavy shade that can take heavy soils. It is a useful indoor plant and makes an attractive feature or at the edge of a pool. The young growing tips of the rhizomes of some species are a ginger source and the fruit are edible.

Ginger generally is not frost hardy and is best suited to tropical to sub-tropical climates although it will grow happily outdoors to as far south as Sydney or indoors in cooler frosty climates.

### Propagation

Seed requires no specific pre-treatment.

Sow in a good rich medium, seed should be lightly covered and the medium kept moist but not damp and should never be allowed to dry out. Place in a warm shaded place to allow germination in 3 - 5 weeks.

Prick out seedlings into individual tubes as soon as large enough to handle.

Plant out in a dappled light to full sun position in a rich fertile soil.

### Care

A minimum temperature of 12°C in the winter is generally required but Spring is the ideal time for repotting.

The best compost to use consists of equal parts of loam, leaf mold and well-decayed manure. The rhizome should be set about an inch below the surface. They may be divided every year and kept in 30cm pots, or they may be left alone to grow into big plants that will fill large tubs. They love moisture, so they don't need a huge amount of drainage. The soil should be constantly moist throughout the summer and the atmosphere humid. They should be given fertilizer every two weeks when they are growing actively. Shade from direct sunlight should be provided. When they are finished flowering, they should be watered less, just enough to keep the soil from drying out completely.