



alstroemeria



Super Floral Retailing has created this page for the education of store-level employees. To download a reprintable PDF, please go to www.superfloralretailing.com and select "Current Issue."



Photo courtesy of Körner Alstroemeria B.V.

BOTANICAL NAME

Alstroemeria spp.
(al-stro-MEE-ri-a or al-stro-MER-ee-uh)

COMMON NAMES

Peruvian lily, Lily-of-the-Incas

DESCRIPTION

These popular flowers grow from rhizomes or tubers, depending on the variety. They are quite suitable as potted plants for indoor and outdoor displays. The stem lengths will vary and can be more than 5 feet long.

COLORS

Alstroemerias come in a wide range of colors, including white, red, pink, orange, salmon, yellow, lavender, bronze and bicolors. There is no pure color of *Alstroemeria*; all have spots or another color present in the flowers.

CONSUMER LIFE

Each bloom cycle will last for several weeks.

AVAILABILITY

Countless hybrids and varieties make *Alstroemerias* readily available all year.

Alstroemeria spp. 'Pulse'—Peruvian lily, Lily-of-the-Incas

in-store and consumer care

LIGHT Bright, indirect light is best for plants displayed indoors. Filtered sun is tolerated outdoors. The best flowering will be exhibited on plants grown in partial shade.

WATER Allow the plants to dry between watering. Avoid irregular or overhead watering or standing water on the foliage and flowers.

TEMPERATURE Warm areas (65 F to 75 F) are best for displaying *Alstroemerias*.

HUMIDITY These plants will do best in areas with moderate humidity.

FERTILIZER *Alstroemerias* can be fertilized during their growing season. Cease fertilizing when the blossoms are set. Use a water-soluble or organic fertilizer, following the label directions.

SOIL *Alstroemerias* do best in a well-drained mixture of organic material and sand.

GROOMING Cut the plants back to soil level when they have finished flowering to remove faded flowers, leaves and stems.

REPLANTING Following an indoor blooming cycle, *Alstroemerias* generally do best if they are planted outdoors in the fall and winter, from November through February.

challenges

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY *Alstroemeria* plants' sensitivity to ethylene varies by variety. Signs of exposure are wilted or crepey flowers and dropping petals. Check with your supplier to make sure your plants have been treated with an anti-ethylene agent at the grower or transportation level.

PESTS AND DISEASES These plants are relatively insect free. Watch for red spider mites on indoor plants. Aphids can be a problem on new growth. Control both by washing them off the plants.

CAUTION *Alstroemerias* are known to cause allergic reactions on the skin of some people. This can be avoided by wearing latex gloves when handling these plants.

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), the famed Swedish botanist, named the plant after his student and friend, Baron Clas Alstroemer (1736-1794), a naturalist and Sweden's consul in Spain. Baron Alstroemer sent several roots to his tutor in 1754.

FAMILY The genus *Alstroemeria* originally was classified in the *Liliaceae* family and later in the *Amaryllidaceae* family. Today, botanists have placed this plant in its own family, the *Alstroemeriaceae*, a relatively small group of plants made up primarily of *Alstroemerias* and *Bomerias*.

HOME SWEET HOME *Alstroemerias* are native to South America. They were discovered in Chile, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico. There are approximately 50 species of *Alstroemerias* and many hybrids and varieties. **sfr**

Some information provided by:

- A. Repetto Nursery, Inc.; Half Moon Bay, Calif.
- Back Yard Gardener, www.backyardgardener.com
- Chain of Life Network®, www.chainoflifenetWORK.org
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension www.ces.ncsu.edu
- Weidners' Gardens; Encinitas, Calif. www.weidners.com

Reach "Blooming Plant of the Month" writer Steven W. Brown, AIFD, at sbfloral@aol.com or (415) 239-3140.



Photo courtesy of Bay City Flower Co., Inc.

Alstroemeria spp.
Peruvian lily, Lily-of-the-Incas

quality checklist

BLOOMS Look for plants whose flowers are just about to open.

STEMS The plants should have strong, healthy stems.

FOLIAGE Buy plants with bright green leaves that are narrow and soft. Avoid plants that have mostly new growth; it will be shiny.