Dave's Tips

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No. 4 Alpinia 'Variegated Ginger'

Soil – Well drained mix with good water-holding capacity. pH is best at 5.5 to 6.0.

Fertilizer – Use balanced fertilizer. Best if incorporated in soil mix. Maintain high levels of magnesium.

Water – Do not allow the soil to become dry. Leaf rolling or curling indicates conditions are too dry. Not a drought tolerant plant.

Humidity – Ideal in a tropical situation, 50% during the day. Growing in lower humidity would require additional mistings.

Temperatures – Production in or above 65°F + at night and 85°F during the day for optimum growth. Below 50°F will dramatically slow production time. Below 35°F can result in cold burn.

Frost will damage exposed leaves, but will not kill the plant.

Light – 50-65% shade will produce clean foliage and maintain coloration with good growth rates. Levels above 80% shade will produce semi-stretched foliage and may result in more green and less desirable variegation. Plants can be grown in full sun, but will require more fertilizer and more attention to waterings.

Pests – Fairly resistant but aphids can sometimes infect young growth.

Diseases – Although it is rare, edges can burn if the soluble salts are kept too high or the plants have repeated dry cycles resulting in too much plant stress.

Growth Rates – Varies by season, growing facility, and desired finish height.

General Rule:

- 6" pot to finish - approximately 5-6 months.
- 8" pot to finish - approximately 7-9 months.
- 10" pot to finish - approximately 8-12 months.

As long as high light levels are maintained, plants will readily form 'sucker shoots.'

In the landscape, plants can attain 8' plus and display a clump 'habit'.

USDA Zones 9-11, root hardy in zone 8.