

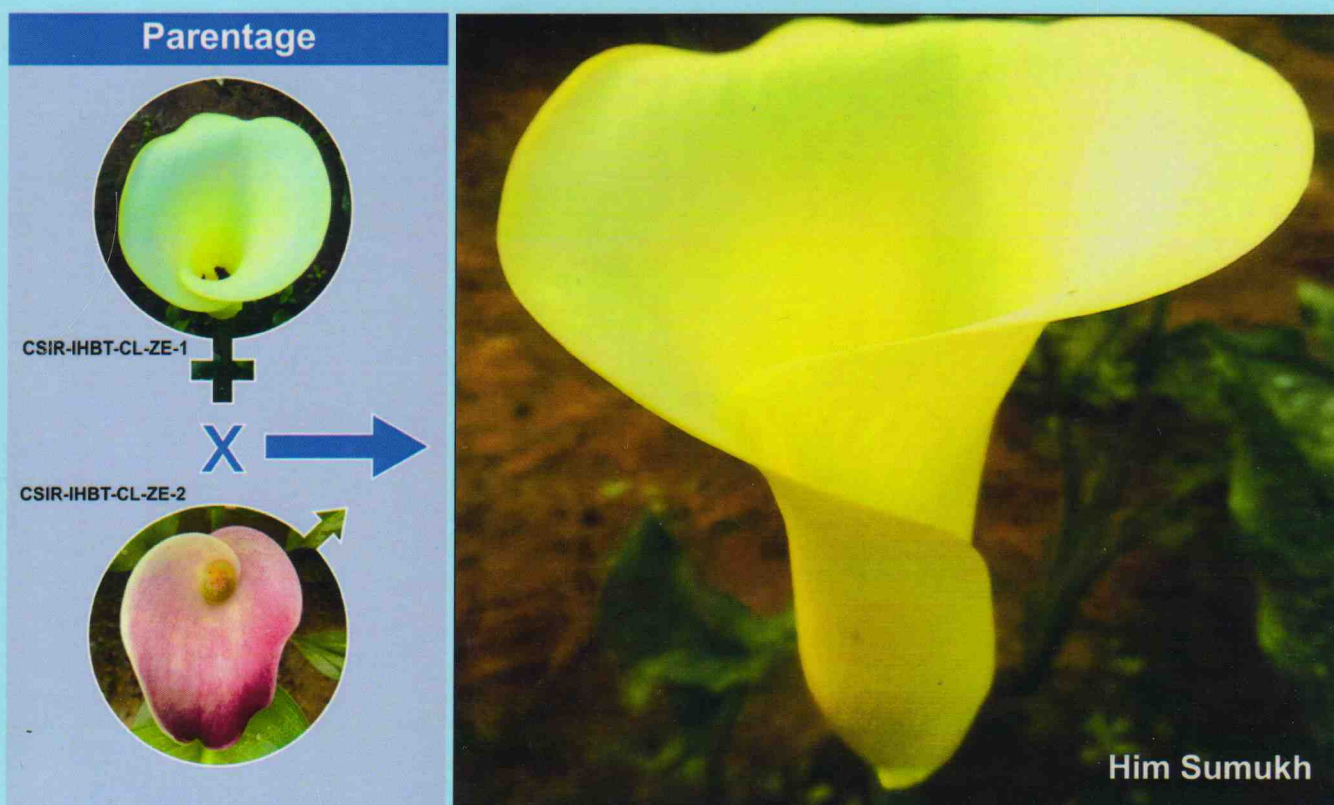
Calla lily cultivars

Him Sumukh and Him Shweta

Calla lilies are popular floriculture plants which are cultivated for their exotic blooms and glossy foliage. Two species of calla lilies viz., *Z. elliotiana* (coloured blooms) and *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (white blooms) are of commercial importance and used both as cut flowers as well as flowering potted plants. The leaves are very attractive and used in floral arrangements. Being moisture loving plants, white calla lilies are often used in landscape along bog gardens and damp borders.

Him Sumukh (CSIR-IHBT-CL-Y-1)

The cultivar Him Sumukh (CSIR-IHBT-CL-Y-1) of *Zantedeschia elliotiana* has been developed by CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur through hybridization and selection approach. The parental genotypes CSIR-IHBT-CL-ZE-1 and CSIR-IHBT-CL-ZE-2 were crossed and variable colours of calla lilies were obtained in the progenies, which were morphologically characterized for floral traits. The selection was made for its unique cylindrical trumpet flower shape and attractive bright yellow colour. These selections were evaluated for two years with respect to flower production potential and other agronomic attributes under field and protected conditions. The cultivar has excellent nursery performance, vigorous in growth and suitable for both protected as well as partial shade field conditions.



Salient features of the cultivar Him Sumukh

Morphological Traits	Protected cultivation		Field condition	
	Mean	Range	Mean	Range
Number of flowers	3.3	1.0 - 4.0	3.2	1.0 - 4.0
Flower stalk length (cm)	88.4	44.3 - 97.6	48.2	37.5 - 64.3
Flower stalk diameter (mm)	8.6	4.82 - 10.4	6.7	3.9 - 8.9
Plant height(cm)	124.5	81.4 - 134.5	94.3	56.4 - 102.3
Leaf length(cm)	25.4	18.7 - 31.5	22.2	15.4 - 26.2
Leaf width (cm)	17.3	12.4 - 21.4	12.1	9.3 - 13.1
Number of shoots	4.6	2.0 - 5.0	5.0	1.0 - 6.0
Number of leaves	20.3	16.0 - 25.0	28.2	5.0 - 32.0



Him Shweta (CSIR-IHBT-CL-W-1)

The cultivar Him Shweta (CSIR-IHBT-CL-W-1) of *Zantedeschia aethiopica* has been developed by CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur through hybridization followed by selection for flower shape and white colour. The hybridization programme in calla lilies was undertaken using two parental genotypes CSIR-IHBT-CL-ZA-1 and CSIR-IHBT-CL-ZA-2. Variable floral shapes of calla lilies were obtained in the progenies which were evaluated for agronomic traits under protected and field conditions. The evaluation of selections was done for two years with respect to flower production and agronomic parameters. The cultivar has excellent nursery performance, vigorous in growth and suitable for open field conditions.



Salient features of the cultivar Him Shweta

Morphological Traits	Field condition		Protected cultivation	
	Mean	Range	Mean	Range
Number of flowers	6.7	4.0-10.0	5.0	4.0-6.0
Flower stalk height (cm)	90.3	81.4-104.5	107.5	98.5-118.0
Flower stalk diameter (mm)	10.2	6.9-16.5	13.1	10.1-17.8
Plant height (cm)	62.2	49.0-72.5	85.6	81.5-95.1
Leaf length (cm)	22.7	16.4-28.4	42.5	38.0-45.5
Leaf width (cm)	11.4	7.6-17.5	21.5	17.3-26.2
Number of shoots	10.3	6.0-14.0	12.4	10.0-16.0
Number of leaves	33.0	26.0-37.0	38.0	34.0-45.0

Propagation

The conventional method of propagation in *Z. aethiopica* callas is through division of underground rhizomes, whereas in case of *Z. elliotiana* it is through tubers. Tissue culture can also be used for mass multiplication.



