Growing your Couroupita guianensis – Cannon Ball Tree

Few trees are as intriguing as the Cannon Ball tree from South America. The huge round ‘cannon ball size’ fruit are the feature for which the tree is named, but the strange trunk born floral structures are even more fascinating.

These cauliflorous flowering stems may reach 2 metres in length and produce many large pink flowers. Out of interest, these flowers are designed to be Bat pollinated, a common pollination vector in the tropics. The Cannon ball tree is quite large growing, certainly only suitable for the larger garden, but what an awesome specimen!

When your plant arrives, pot it up as soon as possible. Use a deep pot and a quality potting mix such as Searle’s. Add the recommended amount of Osmocote.

Keep your plant consistently moist, this is important in the first few weeks to help the roots re-establish. Keep in bright shade for at least a month, then slowly start to introduce it to a little morning sun. I recommend misting the leaves for the first few days to relieve any moisture stress, particularly in hot weather.

Eventually the cannon ball tree will accept full sun. Ideally grow your tree in an open aspect where the amazing features of this tree are clearly visible. Keep it well watered while it is establishing and fertilise twice a year with a complete fertiliser such as dynamic lifter.

Best of luck with your Cannon Ball tree, I hope you enjoy showing it off to your green thumbed friends. If I can be of any further help, please do contact me.

Take care

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