



On September 24, visitors can tour Horn Canna Farm during the Carnegie Canna Festival.

A FARM *in* FULL BLOOM

Carnegie's Cash Crop

EIGHT MILES NORTH OF Carnegie, a rainbow blooms. It covers 120 acres, richly striating the countryside full of rocky buttes and cinder-colored Angus. This rainbow is **Horn Canna Farm**, and it blooms, rain or shine, from summer to frost.

The farm's roots can be traced to the 1920s, when Frances Horn received six canna bulbs as a gift. (Canna "bulbs" are actually rhizomes, horizontal roots that grow at or below the soil surface.) The flowers were so prolific that Frances's husband, John, supplemented his farm income by selling the rhizomes during the Great Depression.

Today, Frances and John's granddaughter Jolene Horn Snow owns the farm with her husband Kendall and son and daughter-in-law Dustin and Nikki Snow. In 2004, the Horn Canna Farm sold more than three million canna bulbs, making it the world's largest exclusive canna grower.

Why are cannas so popular? Jolene Horn Snow says, "Cannas breed like the proverbial rabbit." The original rhizome produces three to ten new rhizomes the first growing season. Another plus: "You don't have

to have a green thumb to grow cannas," Snow says. The plants thrive in full sun and require only weekly watering.

Raising Horn cannas does pose one difficulty—choosing from the twenty-seven available varieties. Long, banana-like leaves unfurl in shades of green, bronze, or stripes. The plants reach three to six feet in height and are crowned with solid or variegated blooms in pink, red, orange, cream, or yellow, all beautiful.

Looks like at Horn Canna Farm, there just might be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.
—Lori Williams

The Horns welcome visitors during canna season, July through early October. For information on the Carnegie Canna Festival on September 24, call (580) 654-2121. Horn Canna Farm, (580) 637-2327; cannas.net.



JOLENE HORN SNOW

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