



LILIUM (Lilies)

Although there are many types of Lilies their culture remains similar.

Sun: Full sun with the base of the plant in shade. Water freely during active growth and apply a high-potash liquid fertilizer (5-10-5) in spring and again before bloom.

Soil: Well-drained, deeply dug, medium-heavy soil, enriched with leaf mould or compost. Abundant water in summer, drier in winter. Well-drained soil is necessary. Most prefer acidic to neutral soil, martagons like some lime. A light (strawy) mulch should be applied.

Where to Locate: Color for the border. Decorative pots where they may be enjoyed as they come into bloom. Use species lilies for naturalizing. Plant 12-18" apart in groups of 3-5. Protect from strong winds. Most need staking when they are 1' tall, be careful not to pierce the bulb.

Care: Remove flowers when they begin to fade, but leave stems and leaves to nourish the bulb. When cutting blooms for display leave as much of the stem and foliage as possible.

Diseases: Botrytis, a fungal disease, is common, especially in cool, wet weather. Viruses spread by aphids may be a problem. Any dead or diseased foliage should be collected and destroyed to help prevent further infection. The plants may be eaten by rodents, rabbits and deer.

Propagation: New plants may be propagated and hybridized from seed, stem bulblets, scales or bulbils. Detailed discussions of methodology can be found in many texts.

ASIATIC: Flower June-July. Tremendous color range with usually, downward facing blooms. Least fussy as to soil - any well-drained soil will do.

AURELIAN: Trumpet lilies blooming late June-August. Fragrant.

LA HYBRIDS: July bloom. Crosses between Asiatic and Longiflorum (Easter) Lilies.

ORIENTAL: Exotics. Fragrant. Bloom August.

SPECIES: For naturalizing. Martagon blooms in June; tigrinum July-August. Martagon and tigrinum can take shade.

ASIAN LILY BEETLE FACTS

HISTORY: The Asian Lily Beetle (*Lilioceris lili*) is native to Europe and is believed to have been brought to the United States on bulbs shipped from Europe. This beetle was discovered in Canada in 1945 and arrived in Massachusetts in 1992.

IDENTIFICATION: The lily leaf beetle adult is a striking insect with a bright scarlet body, black legs, and antennae. The adults are 1/4" - 3/8" long and will squeak, if you squeeze them gently, as a warning to predators. Adults feed on the leaves, stems, buds, and flowers of many plants. Eggs are reddish-orange and can be found on the underside of leaves. Larvae resemble slugs with swollen orange, brown, yellowish, or even greenish bodies and black heads. Pupae are florescent orange. Adults prefer environments that are shaded, protected, cool, and moist. Beetles over winter in the soil or in plant debris in the garden or woods until spring.

TREATMENT: If you only have a few plants in your garden, hand-picking adults and eggs can be effective. In the case of large gardens, the following insecticides may be used: *carbaryl (Sevin)*, *malathion*, *Methoxychlor*, *Othene*, *Liquid Marathon*, or insecticide containing *Imidacloprid* (such as *Bayer "Advanced Garden"*).

The insecticides listed above are also harmful to insects that we consider beneficial. A preferable, non-toxic, insecticide is *Neem Oil*. Neem oil can be purchased in garden centers under the names of *Turplex*, *Azatin EC*, *Margosan-O*, *Align*, and *BioNeem*.

NEEM TREE: Neem trees (*Azadirachta indica* or "*noble tree of India*") are native to India and a botanical cousin to mahogany. The pesticidal and medicinal properties extracted from the neem tree have been used for at least 2500 years. Today, neem is used in tooth paste, shampoo, soap, cosmetics, skin creams, medicines, and insecticides. The active ingredient in neem pesticides is harmless to spiders, butterflies, bees, ladybugs, and wasps.