Planting and Care of Lilies (lilium)

Below you will find useful planting/care instructions. And some helpful hints I have learned over the years. Consequently, helping your lilies thrive for years of enjoyment. Also, notice we recommend our Power Grow product line. Developed over ten years, our Power Grow products are best suited for growing all lilies. Therefore, maintaining a healthy bulb, plants, and flowers.

Most Popular Lilies

Asian Hybrid Lilies
Asian hybrid lilies are easiest to grow. And mostly non-fragrant. However, some have a subtle fragrance. They come in all shades and color combinations, too. Multiplying rapidly, they bloom over long periods. As well as in the Fall. Similarly, the flowers can be up facing, side facing or down facing. Additionally, Asian lilies vary in height. From 12 inches to 36 inches. Also, flowering early to mid season (depending on the cultivar).

Orientals, Trumpets, and Aurelians
Orientals, Trumpets, and Aurelians are the most exotic. And showy of all lilies. But also multiply more slowly. Also, can be grown in somewhat arid, colder climates. And in low fertile soil. However, will be more effort for good survival in these conditions. Likewise, amending the soil, providing heavier winter protection with mulch coverings is recommended. Spring planting allows them to settle in. And are more apt to make it through harsh winters. Growing here locally, protect them from getting too wet. Especially over winter. Likewise, during extreme cold weather will allow the bulbs to mature more fully for the following year. The large beautiful scented flowers that bloom late summer will be well worth any extra effort.

Orienpet – Longiflorum – L.O. Hybrids
Orienpets are cross bred between Orientals and Trumpet lilies. These lilies are a break through giving improved vigor and large showy flowers. They are more hardy than their parents; the orientals, trumpets and longiflorums. Lilies in this group should be mulched their first year to aid in over wintering in cold climates. Spring planting this group allows them to settle in. And are more apt to make it through the winter with little care.

Tiger Lilies (Species)
Most Tiger lilies do not require specialized care. And will naturalize themselves. They are very adaptable to most soil conditions. And environmental conditions. They do quite well in warm, moist climates. Along with having a lot of stems and blooms. Their delicate, beautiful flowers are quite showy. Most will bloom for long periods in fertile soil. As a matter of fact, Tiger Lily bulbs, for the most, part are smaller than hybrid varieties. But will produce good quality blooms.
Planting Instructions (lilium)

Lily's root is a rhizome. And bulbous in appearance. The plant is produced from a swollen underground storage organ known as a corm. However, it is not a true bulb. Instead a tight, concentric ring of succulent scales. Consequently, attached at their lower end to a basal plate. However, for simplicity reasons, we refer to them as bulbs. The bulb is inserted into the ground to grow. And, should you decide dig up each bulb, marking their location is important.

Lily bulbs cannot withstand long periods of wet soil or potting mix. Consequently, they will perish. Garden or landscape soil normally will provide lily bulbs with adequate, natural drainage. Unless planted in a continually wet area. Again, lily bulbs will rot. Instead, improve the drainage of the soil. Place and mix plenty of horticultural grit: Pumice, or perlite. Additionally, even placing small rocks below the bulb improves soil drainage. Lily bulbs are never completely dormant. So, they should be planted as soon as possible. After you receive or dig them. If you are unable to plant your bulbs immediately, keep them refrigerated. And moist in a container with some damp packing material. Store with the top partially open for ventilation.

Location

Choice of location is critical when planting lilies. In addition, planting in the garden or landscape, make sure your bulbs are in a well drained place. And has no standing water at any time. Lilies need direct sunlight for part of the day. They grow best in full sun during the am hours. And shade from 2pm on.

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Soil

Like Calla Lilies, Lilies (Asian, Orientals, etc.) like and thrive in acidic soil (6.0ph to 6.5ph). Therefore, all steps should be taken to lower your soil Ph to the desired level. However, they will perform adequately at neutral 7.0ph.

Lilies need rich (high organic matter), "airy" soil. Not compacted. For heavy soils (clay) and any other soils, add a lot of potting mixed with at least 30% pumice before planting. You can also use a combination of peat moss, a small amount of seasoned organic compost, and pumice. Once again, a good potting mix with at least 30% pumice for good drainage can be added. If using manure make sure it is well rotted (at least 2 years old). And use only as a top dress. However, be careful. If not seasoned, using with the bulb, when planting, causes damage to the bulbs. Therefore, lowering their disease resistance. Commercially produced manure is excellent. Do not use chicken manure. To high in nitrogen no matter how old it is.

Depth

Outdoor Landscapes/Gardens

Plant to a depth of 4" to 6" and 12"-16"apart. Trumpets and Orientals should be planted to a depth of 6" for extra winter protection. Place your lily bulb with its roots down and scales pointing up. In addition, do not add bone meal. Consequently, dogs and other rodents dig for it. Therefore, destroying the bulb.

Likewise, add a bit of much. And our Power Grow Fall fertilizer. Cover with your soil mixture. Then pack the soil in around your bulb to remove any air pockets. If the soil is extremely dry, add a bit of water before covering. Lilies make a nice show if they are planted in triangular groups of 3 per variety.

Container Growing

Do not use black or dark colored pots or containers. In addition, they absorb way too much heat. Therefore, overheating the roots, as well as the bulb. Bulbs should be planted singly. A minimum of 8" wide and 14" deep. Larger pots can accommodate more lily bulbs. Also, in groups of 3 or more equally spaced, at your discretion. And, allowing at least 2" but no more than 3" of soil above the bulb.
I do not recommend planting deeper than 2". Here’s why: people have a tendency to over water. Especially, when lily bulbs are planted in containers (I am no exception). For example, if annuals or other small perennials are planted, accenting the lily flower, they take a lot of extra watering. Lily bulbs don't need that much water. If you are going to plant the lily bulb in this manner, again plant no deeper than 2". And cover or remove it from the container before Fall or Winter.

**Potting Mix...Not Soil**

Like Calla Lilies, Lilies in the lilium family (Oriental, Asian, etc.) thrive in acidic potting mix. Our Power Grow Potting mix is formulated at 6.3ph to 6.5ph. Therefore, I highly suggest using it.

Do not use your garden soil for container or raised bed plantings. You can introduce unwanted soil insects, diseases. And worse of all SLUGS! For best results, use our custom “Power Grow” potting soil.

Mix our FALL “Power Grow” soil fertilizer (according to directions). Also with our potting mix before placing your bulb(s). Once you have potted the bulb(s) and covered them, sprinkle our SPRING “Power Grow” fertilizer. On top of the potted bulb. Repeat the Spring “Power Grow” fertilizer when the bulb is showing six inches of new growth. Likewise, a commercial potted bulb having a PH level of no more than 6.7. And has 30% peat moss, 30% mulch, 40% pumice will be adequate.

DO NOT USE MUSHROOM MULCH OR COMPOST, IT HAS TOO MUCH LIME AND TOO HIGH OF PH! Re-pot every three years (repeating the steps above) with fresh potting mix and our FALL “Power Grow” fertilizer.

**Winter/Storage**

**Gardens/Landscape**

Lilies in the lilium family (Asians, Orientals, etc.), grown in the Pacific Northwest, do just fine over winter. Grown in garden/landscape soil. However, they need well drained, aerated soil. And planted a minimum 4 inches deep. So, digging then storing for winter is up to you.

Storing lily bulbs over winter, at or just below freezing, cools the bulb. Therefore, killing most diseases. And, producing better blooms next year. Also, delaying its’ bloom period for what you want it to be. In other words, once planted, it will grow then bloom according to its’ natural process. So, you could have lilies blooming until Fall. As a matter of fact, even forcing them to bloom indoors during winter.

Before Winter sets in, remove the bulbs. Then clean and place in a dry, cool area. Such as a root cellar or garage. Lily bulbs will survive at or just below freezing. As long as they are well protected with soil, peat moss, potting mix, or any other protective material.

**Containers/Pots**

Extra care for winter storage in containers/pots must be taken. Surround the containers with sawdust, straw, or cover with plastic. Much the way you would protect tomatoes from a late spring freeze. Or, before Winter sets in, remove the bulbs from the container. Then place it in an area that will protect the bulb from freezing. Such as a root cellar or garage. Lily bulbs can get below freezing. As long as they are well protected with soil, peat moss, potting mix, or any other protective material.

Storing lily bulbs uncovered outdoors, during the winter months, is not recommended. Therefore, too much rainfall can saturate even the best well drained potting mix. As well as heavy snowfall on top of the container, slowly melting. Also causes your bulbs to rot. Therefore, it is recommended moving the containers to a dry, cool place for winter storage. Or remove the bulb. Clean, then store in a paper bag with damp newspaper. Then place it in a dry, cool place. Keep bulbs damp, not wet.

**Raised Beds**

If you feel you have a well drained potting mix, it’s not necessary to pull your bulbs from their beds. You can leave them planted through out the winter. However, if it isn’t, then pull your lily bulbs. Clean and store in a paper bag or container with a damp material. Then place in a cool, dry place. Keep bulbs damp, not wet.
**Lily Pests**

**Slugs and Snails**
Slugs and snails are by far the most destructive pests known to lilies. Feeding occurs primarily under ground. And usually at night. They can wipe out your bulbs in a matter of days! You should treat your lilies every three weeks with organic, pet safe slug bait. Likewise, at or near your bulb location. Natural bait traps work well, too. See our article: [https://lilyflowerstore.com/slug-snail-control-methods/](https://lilyflowerstore.com/slug-snail-control-methods/)

**Aphids**
If your lily is well nourished and healthy, I very seldom see an aphid attack. However, infection occurs just before the bud swells. Then starts to color for opening. But also, if it does occur treat them by applying an insecticidal soap. That is to say, in the AM hours. NOT during the heat of the day. Consequently, when hot, the foliage and flowers burn.

**Deer**
Grow in containers near where humans populate. Deer are usually are afraid to come around places where people are. Get a large enough dog, chasing them away. Use motion sprinklers. Also, use a hot sauce. Then apply frequently to the bud, upper leaves, and stem. Build a cage or fence around the lily plants.

**Rabbits**
See “Deer”

**Pocket Gophers**
Pocket Gophers will eat all of your lilies in a matter of hours. First they eat the bulb. Second, they pull the rest of the plant into their run or tunnel. Diligence is the key here: Watch for their air holes or mounds. Then attack! Use any commercial Gopher trap to get rid of them before it’s too late.

**Moles**
Moles are not vegetarians. So, they damage or destroy your lilies while foraging for grubs or worms. They will sometimes move your bulb to the upside down position. Therefore the stem will not emerge.

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**Summary**

**Lilies (Lilium)**
Grow Lilies in well drained soil.
Add potting mix in garden/landscaping soil.
Keep all pests away.
Fertilize twice yearly.
Grow in large containers.
Grow in raised beds.
Use well draining, aerated potting mix.
Grow at 6.2 to 6.5 soil ph.
Place in am shade then afternoon sun.
Contact Information

On Line Store:  lilyflowerstore.com
Annual Lily Festival:  lilyflowerfest.com
Christmas Tree Farm:  parrysfarm.us
Mail Address:  PO Box 372
Forest Grove, OR  97116
Physical Address  45627 NW David Hill Rd.
Forest Grove, OR  97116
Kenn Parry, Owner
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Limited Six Month Warranty, Shipping Policy, Bulb Orders

Due to the high cost of printing, planting and care guides are provided for all of our plant products for you to download here or at https://lilyflowerstore.com/care guide. Please do so before planting any of our bulbs/tubers whether in “take home” pots or Bulbs/tubers/ ordered for pickup next Spring. We will, however, place several care guides (as samples) for you to reference in the check in shed.

Shipping Policy

Shipping is an additional cost. All bulb/tuber orders are prepaid and placed over the winter in cold storage to be shipped and planted in the Spring.

We ship UPS or USPS...be sure you have specified which carrier you want and your shipping address is correct when you purchase your bulbs for shipping, and you can ask us for the cost when you place your order. We include material to absorb moisture to prevent rotting. Bulbs are never completely dormant and they should be planted according to our Care Guide as soon as you receive them.

We are not responsible for the treatment of your package by the carrier. As the purchaser, it is your responsibility to inform the carrier of any shipping damage or purchase shipping insurance.

• All bulbs ordered at the festival are prepaid for delivery/shipping the following Spring (starting first week of April).
• We use UPS or USPS as our only shipping agent.
• Shipping fees will be added to your order at the time you pay.
• Shipping dates may vary according to current weather conditions.
• We do not ship internationally or to Hawaii, or Canada.
• Take home pots should be planted ASAP and are NOT covered by our warranty if any of our products remain in their pots for an extended period of time (especially over winter).

PICK UP AT FESTIVAL LOCATION

All bulb/tuber orders are prepaid at the festival and will be available the following Spring for pickup at the festival farm location and should be planted asap after you receive your order. Pickup dates will be listed on our web site (http://www.lilyflowerfest.com. and https://www.lilyflowerstore.com.) and you will receive several e-mail notifications (or phone calls for those without e-mail) starting March 1 and ending 30 days later that your order is ready for you to pick up. They will be tagged by name in alphabetical with a copy of your order attached to its' container or bag. Your order is placed on tables inside the check in shed located by the picnic tables. They will be available at your convenience 7 days per week, 9am to 5pm for 30 days. Orders not picked up after thirty days will be placed back into our inventory for resale. No refunds will be give after 30 day period has expired.

We are NOT responsible for notifications going into your "junk mail" so please check your "junk mail" often! If for some reason you cannot pickup your order within the 30 day period, please let us know and we will keep it in cold storage a bit longer.
**WARRANTY**

We offer a limited six month warranty for any product you purchase if planted and cared for in a proper and responsible manner. Any product we sell that you are not completely satisfied with, simply return the original shipping label along with your written request for either a full refund (minus shipping fees) or product replacement within six months from the time you receive your product. This does not include our shipping or any handling fees. Since nursery stock is perishable, it is your responsibility, as the purchaser, to strictly adhere to your planting/care guide downloadable from lilyflowerfest.com or lilyflowerstore.com. Our warranty does not cover acts of God, frost, draught or any other severe environmental conditions, human carelessness, animal/pest damage, leaving your bulbs in the purchased pot outdoors over winter.

We warranty our products to be true to name, to be in healthy living condition and packaged properly at the time of shipment or your purchase. We are a licensed nursery, inspected by the Oregon Department of Agriculture frequently, and all of our products are certified to be free of insects and contagious plant diseases.