



Planting Lilies

If you own LET'S GROW LILIES then just use Chapter 4. Instructions excerpted from LET'S GROW LILIES.

RULES:

- 1. Good drainage. Lilies hate wet feet.** Raised planters are the ideal. Slopes and hill sides are good. Do NOT plant in dips and hollows where water can sit.
- 2. Where to plant.** Most lilies do well in sun or partial sun. Usually the more sun the better. *Martagons like the dappled shade but do tolerate full sun, try to keep their feet shaded.*
- 3. Lilies love Humus.** Mix it up to 12-18 inch depth. Recipe; 1 part humus (compost or peat moss), 2 parts soil, 1 part sharp sand or vermiculite. This part is especially important if you have clay soil. **How much humus? Never too much!**
- 4. Plant promptly.** The sooner your lily starts rooting into its new home the better it will survive the winter. The best for any lily bulb is to get it back into dirt as soon as possible. **This rule is important with martagons as they are an early lily.**
- 5. How deep?** We hear this a lot. Except for that Madonna Lily (Easter Lily) that you planted out in the garden with no more than one inch of soil coverage, lilies like 3- 4 inches coverage for small bulbs (make an O with your forefinger and thumb- that size) and 4 – 6 inches coverage for larger bulbs (make a fist- you should be that lucky to get one that big). Basically cover with dirt to the depth of 3 x the size of the bulb. Lily bulbs will actually shift up or down a bit to their happy spot in your soil. Orienpet varieties are more intolerant to the cold winter here so plant them deeper, about 10 inches of soil cover and mulch heavily.
- 6. Spacing.** Holes are usually dug 6 inches deep for the average bulb. To allow room of the inevitable bulb division over time (3- 5 Years for Asiatics and LA's) place bulbs 4 -18 inches apart depending on size and how prolific the variety (if you know). Place in grouping of 3 for a splendid display. Spread out the roots along the bottom of the hole.
- 7. Feeding? Water Immediately.** Even if it is raining they need moisture now. As you pour water on them repeat this prayer '**Come on... GROW**'. Soak them good, this ensures that the bulbs can re-root and be ready for that long cold winter in good shape. The well drained spot you put them in will ensure they do not rot. Fertilize with 2-14-0 or any good bulb slow release fertilizer, remember the numbers mean leaves-flowers-roots so select accordingly. A good time to fertilize is in spring. For Martagons water in with luke warm water (not cold tap water) this seems to help hold off transplant shock and they may not "sulk".
- 8. Mark where you put them.** Label them with their name. You can show a lily with a name and have the satisfaction of being able to talk about your babies by name instead of trying to describe the colour and markings. Be especially vigilant with pets etc as they can rearrange your lily bed and tags, a safe bet is to create a little plan of where you put bulbs and list the names next to the x's that way if your bulb has not moved you can retag without headaches. Lost tags have been everyone's problem at sometime. ***Martagons especially need to be marked as they sometimes "sulk" or suffer from transplant shock. They really do not like to be moved so pick a spot you know you want them to be for a long long time. If they do not show above ground it is because they are busy strengthening up underground- wait for it. You will have a good sized blooming stem.***
- 9. Mulch.** This keeps the bulbs insulated in winter the weeds down in summer and the lily roots cool too. The moisture also sticks around longer under the mulch so you don't have to water as often. Especially winter mulch Orienpets.
- 10. Extra diligence.** Some gardeners worry about pests and disease ARLS tries to provide clean dirt free bulbs to avoid pests like the lily beetle. To ensure cleanliness soak for 20 minutes in a 10% bleach solution before planting and sprinkle with bulb dust during planting.