# Student Lily Collection Research at Olds College 2021

# By Alejandra Arroyo-Guzman

Olds College School of Life Science and Business collaborating with Alberta Regional Lily Society, has a large collection of lilies. These are located in the Botanic Gardens and the Research Plots at Olds, Alberta; some cultivars are for research. The main task of this analysis consists of collecting appropriate measurements for more than 60 cultivars at the research plots; in addition, to collect lily beetle larvae for the work of Dr. Ken Fry on biological control of the lily leaf beetle.

I am Alejandra Arroyo-Guzman and I have been working as the Lily Student Research Assistant since May 2021. I am from Cuernavaca Mexico where I developed my passion for agriculture. When I was a kid, I used to harvest tomatoes and wildflowers for my grandmother and my mom. Back in time, I used to say that I wanted to be a doctor for plants. Subsequently, from 2014 to 2019 I studied my major in Agronomy at Antonio Narro University in Saltillo, Mexico. In 2017 I got a scholarship from my university to do an exchange program at Olds College for eight months. At that time, I did not have the opportunity to take any courses from the Horticulture program, but I read about them, and I got captivated. As soon as I finished my degree in Mexico, I decided to take a second chance and come back to Canada to study Horticulture Technologist at Olds. It is my first year involved in this program. I am fascinated by all the knowledge that I have been learning during this time. My goal is to do the full degree.

During these months working as a lily research student, I am responsible for the lily collection around the college, aside from collecting the data of the progress of the lilies at the plots every other day. It includes height, numbers of buds, blooms, stem diameter, number of stems, plant spread, and width. As well as be aware of lily leaf beetles and collect all the larvae to check on the biological control of the lily beetle that involves the parasitoid wasp *Tetrastichus setifer.*

I am so thankful for this opportunity as a lily research student. I have been enjoying, learning, and expanding my knowledge in scientific methods and research around lily cultivars. I am confident that this experience is helping me to improve my knowledge as a horticulturist.