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President's Lily pad message

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Mother Nature once again flexed her will and decided winter should start with Halloween. Hopefully you were able to get all that fall clean up done before the snow and cold arrived. Reportedly this has been our coldest November in 15 years (so much for Global warming!).

Fortunately, the snow came with the cold to provide a blanket for our bulbs that snuggled in the ground for the winter.

If you were a little over ambitious like me and didn't get all the bulbs from the fall sales into the ground, make sure you tuck them into the fridge crisper. This will provide them with the optimal temperature and they will be ready to plant in the spring. It's always a good idea to do a check in January to see if there is any mold or rot that needs to be cleaned up.

If you were ambitious this fall and collected some Martagon seed, you should be thinking about starting them if you haven't already. Use a baggy with some moist peat moss, add the seeds, place the bag in a warm dark spot and in about 3 weeks you will start to see some germination!

This fall Terry and Shauna Willoughby generously donated a bulb of one of their Martagon Show winning seedlings to ARLS. The bulb was auctioned through e-mail, to our membership as a fundraiser. Congratulations to Kathy Strawson for winning the auction and adding this lily to her collection (or her daughter's garden). The bidding was intense, thanks to all those who participated and watch for future opportunities.

As the holidays approach, if you are still looking for that ideal gift for your gardening friend and they are not an ARLS member yet, for just \$10 you can share the benefits of our Lily Society. They will benefit from the ongoing sharing of lily culture information in the Bulblet as well as the opportunity for fellowship and networking with lily experts through participation in our annual events and activities.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and All the Best to You and Yours in the New Year. May 2018 filled with many new Lily (gardening) adventures!

Lorne





NEWSLETTER EDITOR Any spelling and grammatical errors are all my own. If you see a data omission, please inform blackmartagon@gmail.com with the correction.

LILY VIGNETTE

I like to hear the stories behind the lily. A picture and approx. 25 words is all it takes. Submit to <u>blackmartagon@gmail.com</u> Newsletter deadlines- Feb 15- May 15- Aug 15- Nov 15

FEB 15 for MAR 1 Bulblet Get your information in to blackmartagon@gmail.com

Please put subject: 'newsletter submittal' in email so I can find it in my inbox when I need it.

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Alberta Horticultural Association icangarden.com/clubs/aha
Calgary Horticultural Society calhort.org @YYCGardening
https://www.facebook.com/calhort/posts/10155653635414592/
Edmonton Horticultural Society edmontonhort.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/14571255402/
North American Lily Society lilies.org
RHS Lily Group www.rhslilygroup.org/

ARLS NAME TAGS Have you ordered a name tag. Call Shauna to get an update.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NALS REGIONAL MEDAL

are being solicited please submit to Shauna Willoughby.

23nd ANNUAL MARTAGON SHOW JUNE 23 & 24 2018 [July 7&8 if spring is late] at the U of Alberta Botanic Gardens open 10 am to 6 pm daily June 1 to August 31 Thursday's until Aug 30 gate is open to 8:30 pm and gardens are open to dusk.

NALS LILY SHOW & SYMPOSIUM
June 27, 2018 – July 1, 2018
Sheraton West Des Moines, 1800 50th Street West Des Moines, IA United States

33nd ANNUAL LILY SHOW July 21 & 22 Greenland Garden Centre. Hwy 16 at Cloverbar Road in Sherwood Park. Greenland hours are 9 am to 6 pm Sat & 10 am -6 pm Sunday

LILY SOURCES

Valley K Lily Ranch Lynnette Westfall; asiatics, OTs, some martagons & species
RR1 Edberg TOB 1J0 http://plantlilies.com great resource and lily gallery. mail order only bulbs@plantlilies.com

Bertha Lardner: Martagon Lilies NE Edmonton 780-478-7929 lardnerbm@gmail.com

Parkland Lilies - Fred Fellner seedlings RR1 Vermillion 1-780-853-2355 final last years of hybridizing

Rundlewood Gardens Specialty Nursery; martagons 1643 Altadore Ave SW. Calgary (corner of 16th Street and 46th Ave SW) http://www.rundlewoodgardens.ab.ca/ info@rundlewoodgardens.ab.ca location shopping only- no mail order shipping. Stop by when in Calgary- check website for hours.

Lily Nook Nigel & Joyce Strohman; all things lily

Box 846 Neepawa Man. ROJ 1HO http://www.lilynook.mb.ca 1 204 476 3225 info@lilynook.mb.ca

Skinner Nursery Hugh Skinner; martagons, species, asiatics

Box 220 Roblin Man. ROL 1PO 1-204-564-2236. ski hugh@mts.net

SW-Gardens Sandra-Pat Willis; lilies from various divisions

22507 Kenesserie RD Thamesville ONT. NOP 2K0 http://www.s-wgardens.com/ 1-519-692-5580 swgardens@yahoo.ca

LilyCrest Gardens Brian Bergman; Bergman seedlings, [OTs, asiatics, orientals & trumpets from active

51 Woodcrest Dr. Toronto ONT. M9A 4J3 Facebook.com/LilyCrestGardens 1-416-614-6394 bfberg@rogers.com

Jeffries Nurseries Ltd. P.O. Box 402, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3B7 29053 Trans Canada Highway #1 35 miles west of Winnipeg near Portage la Prairie www.jeffriesnurseries.com/ 204-857-5288 jeffnurs@mts.net

THE BEETLE INVASION CONTINUES... Part 3

Well apparently relaxing is not happening yet. We went away for Thanksgiving and what do I come back to—you got it more beetles. Ten of them all on one group of lilies. Soiree must be really tasty, they have attacked that group three time this year. At least I know where to look first to see if they are back. So do these fall beetles travel in groups or did I miss a passle of them and these just hatched out of pupae stage. Hopefully not, that would mean I missed a whole bunch of larvae. When would they have been munching I plucked anything crawling on my lilies. Nothing new in September that is why I relaxed. The beetles are the ones I missed getting as the munching marks started up again through late September with me all but standing on my head trying to see where the hidey spots were. Either way what are they doing in my garden in October? When do these things hibernate? Did I get them all? I even went next door and did a beetle patrol. Jeez if I have to do beetle yoga April through October. I am going to be very limber. Well here is to five months time off of beetle patrol. They have to be hibernating now!



Give a gardener a break. Laurie Hepper





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Volunteering with ARLS we now have a procedure to follow and track volunteer hours. When a volunteer reaches the required hours, they are eligible for a lily bulb. Please make sure you confirm your hours volunteered with your volunteer coordinator.

LILY BASICS – PART FOUR

DESCRIPTIONS AND DIVISIONS

When it comes to choosing a lily for the garden, the possibilities can be overwhelming. Lily breeders work with species hardy to their region to develop plants that display desirable characteristics such as flower size and shape, colour and, markings as well as plant hardiness, variations in height etc. Those breeding programs result in new lily hybrids and cultivars being available every year, expanding the options even more and making it very difficult to sort through.

The Alberta Regional Lily Society

Promoting genus lilium as an excellent garden plant

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In 1964 the Royal Horticultural Society in England - the recognized authoritative source on lilies (http://www.rhslilygroup.org/) - introduced a system for grouping them. Sorted according to their parentage then by flower shape, the result was nine divisions each identified by a Roman numeral. Groups usually contain several similar species and hybrid cultivars developed from those species. The origins of the species used in breeding for each Division may provide some insight as to the hardiness of the lily.

This system is in wide use in publications, lily shows and by suppliers, making a familiarity with it very valuable.

Division I – Asiatic Hybrids (hardy to AB) Asiatic lilies are the result of hybridization of 12 lily species native to Asia. They are the most commonly found lilies in the landscape market, and for good reason. They are very hardy in Alberta (to zone 2), easy to grow and are among the least expensive to purchase. Asiatics multiply readily and bloom primarily in July and August, many individual cultivars bloom for up to two or more weeks. Because the hybrids are developed from a large group of species lilies, the resulting variation is broad. Bloom colours range from shades of white, pink, purple, to yellow, orange and red. Flowers can be outfacing, up-facing or downfacing. These are perfect lilies for a beginner grower



Coppertone (Asiatic)



Amelita (Martagon)

Division II – Martagon Hybrids (hardy to AB)

Martagon lilies stand out from the crowd. They are tall at 1.2 to 1.8 metres in height with numerous small, downward facing flowers with recurved petals – often upwards of 50 per stem. Flower colours range from white, yellow, pink, light purple and orange, to dark red, often with freckles and spots. Martagons bloom early, mainly in June and early July in Alberta, along with the earliest Asiatics. Their leaves differ from other types of lilies, arranged in whorls with sets of leaves radiating out and staggered along the stem.

Martagons have a tendency to emerge early making them prone to early frosts. This should be taken into consideration when choosing the best location. They are the most shade tolerant of all lilies, growing best in dappled, filtered shade, or morning sun with afternoon

shade. Full shade does not produce the best blooms, and full sun may contribute to early emergence. Any location that may contribute to early emergence. Any location that may encourage early emergence, martagons may be prone to early frost damage which can cause flowers to abort. Martagons can often take a few years to settle in, putting up only short stems or refusing to bloom. Be patient as once established, martagons can be left to their own devices for many years. Much like

peonies, they require little to no extra care or division. Martagons are still considered an expensive lily to purchase, in part because they can take up to 7 years to develop a bulb large enough to sell. But they are well worth the investment.

Division III Euro-Caucasian Hybrids (Candidum Hybrids) (not hardy in AB)

This group includes hybrids from European species such as L. candidum (commonly known as the Madonna Lily). They have funnel-shaped flowers on stems 90 – 120 centimetres tall, and are often strongly fragrant. There are not many lilies in this division, they are not hardy in Alberta and are not often found for purchase.

Division IV - American Hybrids (some are hardy in AB) Native lily species found in the Western US and Canada, these are typically found in dappled shade on the edge of woodlands. Species from which hybrids have been developed in this division include L. philadelphicum – the wood lily, Saskatchewan's floral emblem and native to many parts of Alberta. Members of this Division are not often available for purchase.

Division V - Longiflorum Hybrids (not hardy in AB)

This group encompasses the hybrids derived from L. longiflorum (native to Japan) and L. formosanum (native to Taiwan) – most famous is the potted Easter Lily. They are not considered garden hardy.

Division VI Trumpet and Aurelian Hybrids (hardy in AB – some require protection)

Trumpet lilies are the elegant star of the garden. Tall, stately plants with large trumpet-shaped flowers,

they are known for their incredible, strong fragrance. Bred from species found in China, varieties can be

found with downward facing, bowl shaped or upfacing flowers. Colours exist beyond the familiar white to include yellows, chartreuse, pink, purple and peach.

Aurelian hybrids arise from combining trumpet lilies with L. henry (native to China) which results in an increased level of hardiness. Flowers are medium to large trumpet-shaped as well as flat with reflexed tepals, or more open and bowl-shaped. Aurelian flowers s occur in white, cream, yellow, orange and pink and often have a contrasting star-shaped throat or bands of colour, also characteristics supplied by L. henryi.



Pink Planet (Trumpet)

Trumpets will bloom first starting in July, followed by the Aurelians. Lilies in this division may need staking and early shoots may need to be protected from a late frost.

Division VII Oriental Hybrids (not hardy in AB; require special care)

Oriental hybrids include the ever popular Casa Blanca and Stargazer lilies, often found in floral arrangements. Developed from lily species native to Japan, They are known for their large stature (90-120 cm tall) and strong fragrance. Bloom colours include white, pink, purple and yellow, many with spots, markings or coloured margins. They are usually bowl-shaped, or flat with recurved tepals. They are somewhat tender, needing rich, well-amended acidic soil, and mulch to provide winter protection. It is often recommended to spring plant these on the prairies, and hope that they return the following year.

Division VIII Interdivisional Hybrids (not all are hardy in AB and may require special care) When the Divisions were created in the 1960's it was not thought possible that crosses could be made between Divisions, but interdivisional hybrids are now common, leading to many new plant and flower forms. Most common are the LA Hybrids (Longiflorum-Asiatic crosses), OT Hybrids (Orienpets or Oriental-Trumpet crosses), OA Hybrids (Oriental-Asiatic crosses), and LO Hybrids (L. longiflorum-Oriental crosses) among others. This Division has many of the newer breakthrough cultivars in high quality garden lilies.





Yelloween (Orienpet Hybrid)

Red Power (Oriental-Asiatic Cross)

Division IX - Species Lilies (some are hardy in AB)

This Division includes all the species lilies – the parents from which all the hybrids have been developed.

The RHS Lily Group also maintains the lily registry. Although registration is voluntary and does not provide any legal protection on the plant, it is recommended that breeders register names to minimize potential confusion and avoid the duplication of lily names. Names must conform to the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants to be accepted. The last published Register was in 2007 at over 900 pages. Supplements are released every year or two, each adding another 60+ pages.

https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/pdfs/plant-register-supplements/Lilies/lily-register-and-checklist

Written by Jane Reksten, Manager, Botanic Gardens and Greenhouses at Olds College, (www.oldscollege.ca) and the Alberta Regional Lily Society (www.arls-lilies.org)

UNIVERSITY of ALBERTA BOTANIC GARDEN NEWS

Events at the garden: check out the website for all events http://botanicgarden.ualberta.ca/ **Twitter** https://twitter.com/UABotanicGarden; Facebook https://www.facebook.com/UABotanicGarden



Beetle Musings lilybeetle@arls-lilies.org Report your invasion. To Carlton University lilybeetletracker@weebly.com

There is also a resource page on the website If you are in need of a beetle brochure to give to a friend or neighbour. Contact sec@arls-lilies.org

Remember the beetle emerges at the same time as your lilies and they are fertile. Keep watch. Kill the beetle. Report the beetle. Stir the dirt up first thing in spring to get them as they emerge from the soil. They do not hibernate under the lilies; they could be anywhere, including compost piles, and garden mulch- not necessarily yours.

Things I've learned to control beetles. All the carbaryl products, Sevin, ant dust, bulb dust that work to kill the beetle are being removed from the marketplace. Check the rose dust it still might be ok. Beetles breathe through tubes on the side of their bodies, Clog the tubes, they suffocate that is why the dust products work so well they drag their bodies through the

dust and kill themselves. As the dust products will kill all beetles even the garden friendly ones check to see if you have a healthy friendly beetle population. You might not want to go the dust route.

Spraying with Sevin kills bees, even the fumes will drive bees away.

I heard that pouring boiling water over the lily bulbs in fall will kill the beetles. Well that will probably work if they are in the dirt over your lies. If they are somewhere else that does nothing.

Doktor Doom Long Lasting Surface Residual Insect Killer 450 Grams COMMERCIAL PRODUCT has the yellow top. This is to be used in the evening after the bees have gone home and the sun has gone down. Spray the leaves and it will kill the beetle and larvae for up to 10 days. For those with large infestations that can no longer be contained by picking or those who work and just don't have the time to pick. This works. Come Home, relax, wait for sunset and go out and spray. I have bought a can to try in the spring. I really would like to have a back up to picking-like when you go on holiday. Spray and you don't have to worry how your garden is doing. The applications can be after every rain or pick your scheduled day. Personally, I would rather walk thru my garden with a coffee or glass of wine than a bucket of soapy water or Ziploc bags.

Has anyone noticed a reduction of beetles when you used coffee grounds on your garden? I can't report as I have always spread coffee grounds and now have the beetle. Is it a lesser infestation than it could have been? Well I hope so, but how can I tell.

PESTS AND DISEASES OF LILIES

The old adage – prevention is the best medicine – holds true for growing lilies successfully. The best way to avoid damage caused by pests and diseases is to ensure you have healthy, strong lily plants with the resources available to withstand a minor event. Start by purchasing healthy plants or bulbs, and give them the best possible growing conditions, suited to their needs. This means full sun (for most types) nutrient-rich soil, excellent drainage, even moisture and good air circulation. However, even in these ideal conditions, lilies are known to be susceptible to the following diseases and pests.

FUNGAL DISEASES

Fungal pathogens prefer moist, warm conditions and it is during times of persistent moisture that fungal diseases become more prevalent. The use of high nitrogen fertilizers causes lush, soft tissue which makes it easier for the pathogen to infect the plant. Damaged bulbs or leaves can provide a physical





opening through which the pathogen enters the plant. The two most serious fungal diseases of lilies are botrytis and basal rot.

Botrytis

Botrytis affects the above ground portion of lily plants – leaves, stems, and in more extreme cases the flowers and buds. The health of the bulb declines as affected leaves

Botrytis symptoms on lilies

become less photosynthetic, but if the bulb is not affected the plant can often regrow the next year. If the disease is present for three or more years in a row, the plant may succumb.

The disease begins with small light spots on the leaves usually starting at the bottom of the stem. The spots expand becoming darker in the center and lighter on the margins. Greyish mould may occur, and eventually the entire leaf is effected, becoming thin and brittle then falling off. The stem can also be effected causing the plant to collapse. Spores found on the underside of leaves are spread by the movement of plant debris, by wind, rain, and water splashes and survive over the winter on the leaves. Botrytis can spread rapidly if the conditions are right.

To minimize the chances of getting botrytis avoid overhead watering and water early in the day. Mulch may help minimize rain splashing up from the soil which can spread the spores and good air circulation will allow foliage to dry quickly. Fungicidal sprays can be applied to help prevent the disease from becoming established. Bordeaux (or Bordo) mixture is commonly recommended – a combination of

www.arls-lilies.org



copper sulfate (prevents germination of fungal spores) and slaked lime. This product can be purchased, or the ingredients are available for those that prefer to mix it themselves. (See the end of this article for websites that provide detailed instructions). Recommendations suggest spraying the foliage after any kind of damage (ie. hail) or as soon as spots are seen, then repeating every 2 weeks, applying only when leaves are dry. Prevention of botrytis is also aided by the removal and burning of all garden debris.

Basal Rot

Basal rot affects the basal plate (base of the bulb) from which the roots develop downwards, and to which the fleshy scales (leaves) are attached. The soil born fungus enters through the root and works its way up the plant. Spores are carried in the soil or on infected plant tissues and can be spread by tools, infected bulbs and even potting soil.

Above ground symptoms include yellowing of the leaves, stunting of growth and in some cases premature death of the plant. Below ground, a dark brown rot is seen on the bulb parts and the roots may die. Underground bulblets may be infected, but above ground stem bulblets should be healthy and in fact may be produced in larger numbers. These can be harvested for replanting, but be sure to pick a new location, as the organism can live in the soil for years even without a host. It's also possible to save the bulb by removing the infected scales and then dipping the bulb in a fungicide solution.

Avoid basal rot by avoiding over fertilizing and damage to bulbs by mechanical means or by insects. Also beneficial is the use of mulch to reduce soil temperature, and taking measures to improve soil drainage.

VIRUSES

Viruses are very simple organisms that only exist inside the cells of their host. Plant viruses are typically spread through piercing-sucking insects such as aphids and thrips. Cell function is disrupted causing visible symptoms on the plant such as streaking, puckering or twisted growth, reduced plant size and stunted flowers. You may also see colour breaking (mottling or streaking) in the flowers and leaves. Many tulips that display colourful stripes or streaks owe the presence of these patterns to the tulip breaking virus, which can be spread to lilies. It is best to avoid planting these tulips near any lilies.

Viruses can't be controlled with any kind of spray or treatment. To prevent their spread, be sure to remove and destroy any infected plants, including all bulbs and scales - viruses are not carried in seeds, only in vegetative plant parts. Insect populations that might spread the virus can be controlled through conventional methods

LILY BEETLE

The most talked about pest of lilies over the past few years is the lily beetle (*Lilioceris lilii*). It is native to Asia but found its way to Europe and North America. Its first sighting in Canada was in Montreal in the early 1940's. Only a few years ago, Alberta was essentially lily beetle-free, but it is now considered a major pest on lilies in Alberta, to the point that some gardeners have sworn to remove all the lilies from their gardens. Serious indeed. The concern is due to the damage that the insect is capable of, as the larvae and adults feed on lily leaves, in some cases stripping the plant completely. The main hosts of the lily beetle are members of the *Lilium* genus, which includes all true lilies. It also often feeds on lily of the valley, Solomon's seal, fritillaria and even potatoes and nicotiana.



Damage caused by adult lily beetles



Adult lily beetle



Lily beetle eggs

The adult lily beetle is approximately 6-8mm long and is shiny bright red with black antennae, head, legs and underside. Adults overwinter in plant debris in the garden bed, or just below the soil surface, emerging in early spring to mate and then lay hundreds of reddish-orange eggs on the underside of the foliage of lilies and fritillaria. Larvae are slug-like, varying in colour from yellow and orange to brown or green with black heads. Often they are covered with their own excrement for protection from predators – adding to the distaste that gardeners feel for these pests. Larvae feed voraciously for two to three weeks before dropping to the soil to pupate, emerging as adults approximately three weeks later. Generally there is only one generation per growing season, but it may be possible for there to be up to three generations per year if the conditions are right. An individual beetle may survive for two growing seasons.

THE ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

THE BULBLET VOLUME 32, NUMBER 4 WINTER 2017





Lily beetle larva covered in excrement

Lily beetle larva

Control of these insects is challenging. For small infestations, hand control may be the best option. Hand picking and killing the adults, eggs and larvae by squishing or drowning (use a bucket with water and a few drops of vegetable oil and dish soap) can be rewarding, but time consuming. In the lily beds at Olds College we pick larvae and adults two times a week throughout the season. For those not adverse to using chemicals there are some available, however the reports of efficacy vary greatly. Contact chemicals may be effective but must be applied directly to the pest. References can be found to the effectiveness of 'Rose and Flower' spray or dusting products that contain carbaryl (Sevin©) or malathion but there is no hard evidence to support this. Olds College is involved with a research project intended to test the efficacy of a parasitoid wasp as a biological control agent. However it will be some time before the wasp would be available to the home gardener.

Information on Bordeaux Mixture

http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7481.html

https://plantlilies.com/lily-culture/pests/how-to-control-botrytis-on-lilies.html

Written by Jane Reksten, Manager, Botanic Gardens and Greenhouses at Olds College, (www.oldscollege.ca) and the Alberta Regional Lily Society (www.arls-lilies.org)



MEMBER BENEFITS

Members receive discounts at the following businesses:

- * <u>ALL SEASONS GARDEN CENTRE</u>. 10027-81 Ave. Edmonton 10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.
- * APACHE SEEDS LTD. 10136 149 ST., EDMONTON 10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.
- * CANNOR NURSERIES LTD. TWP RD 514 WOODBEND RD, SPRUCE GROVE (west of Devonian Gardens) 10% discount. Membership card must be presented and discount may not apply to all products.
- * <u>ELLERSLIE GIFT & GARDEN 10330 Ellerslie Rd SW, Edmonton</u> Membership card must be presented prior to purchase and discount may not apply to all products.
- * VALLEY K LILY RANCH aka plantlilies.com

15% discount on all bulb orders, excluding shipping. Contact Valley K by email at webmaster@plantlilies.com to request the discount code BEFORE ordering. Follow Valley K on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/plantlilies sometimes she has contests.