



How to Grow & Care for Oriental Lilies

Important: Remove your oriental lilies from the packaging immediately upon receipt and diligently check against your packing list to verify you have received all the lilies that were ordered. Carefully examine your lilies and notify us at once if there are any problems with your order. We guarantee the delivery of top-quality lilies.

Plant your ordered lilies as soon as possible. If you cannot plant them right away, store in a cool area. But be advised, they are perishable plants.

When to Plant:

Lilies can be planted from early to late Spring, or again in late Fall. For best results, plant after your last hard frost in the Spring and prior to your first hard frost in the Fall.

Spring planted lilies can sometimes produce shorter than normal stems their first year, especially if the onset of hot summer weather arrives early. If this occurs, rest assured that by their second year lilies will be established enough to grow to their full height.

Where to Plant:

Oriental lilies need at least half a day of direct sunlight. Filtered light during the hottest part of the day can also be beneficial.

Soil:

Oriental lilies thrive in moist, slightly acidic, and well-drained garden soils. Planting on a slope or a raised bed helps ensure good drainage. Sandy or clay soils should be improved by adding organic matter. Add compost, humus, or sand to clay soils. Add compost or humus to sandy soils.

Planting Depth:

Lilies should be planted at a depth of 6 inches below soil level, or 2 to 3 times the height of the bulb. Prepare for planting by loosening soil slightly below planting depth. Plant bulbs with roots down and scales up. Fill in hole, gently firm soil, and water.

Planting Distance:

Lilies should be planted 6 to 12 inches apart for proper spacing.

Watering:

Regular watering (soaking is preferable) is necessary prior to flowering, which generally occurs in August. Lilies thrive in moist soils. But be aware of over-watering. Lilies don't like wet feet. A raised bed and a well-drained soil are ideal for avoiding over watering. Low growing companion plants capable of providing a shade cover to the base of lily stems are ideal for ensuring proper moisture retention in the heat of summer.

Fertilization:

In proper garden soils, oriental lilies do not require fertilization. For those still wishing to fertilize, a balanced liquid or granular fertilizer, such as a 10-10-10, is recommended. One application of fertilizer can be applied at first sign of growth, with a second application to follow one month later.

Dividing Lilies:

Oriental Lilies can be maintained in the same location for several years and will look more attractive after being established for a period of years. Dividing is recommended after bulbs begin to crowd, evidenced by shortened stems. Dividing can be undertaken in October through November, or after stems turn brown. Dig the

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entire clump and knock any dirt off the bulbs. Cut back all foliage and gently pry bulbs apart. Replant individual bulbs at a proper spacing.

General Care:

Keep your garden clean and tidy by removing dead foliage and weeds. At the end of the season, remove all brown stems by cutting down to the base of stem at soil level. Mulch, although not essential in every area, can be applied as a means of improving the soil, helping to retain moisture, and assisting in weed control. In climates with large temperature swings, and late spring frosts, mulch can be applied to protect against potential freeze damage to new foliage.

Weed Control:

For the home gardener, a regime of mulching and hoeing works best.

Staking:

The long stems and large flowers of lilies often require staking. Use a sturdy enough stake capable of holding the stem. Gently tie stem to stake, taking care to not to over tighten.

Cut Flowers:

Oriental Lilies make great cut flowers. But when cutting lilies, be aware that the bulbs feed on their stems. Thus, to ensure proper bulb health when cutting, leave bottom third of stem attached to the bulb. Once stems turn brown in the fall, they may be cut back completely.

Disease:

In rare occasions, oriental lilies can be affected by botrytis. This fungus, visible to the eye by the presence of bull's eye spots on the leaves, is brought on by cool, wet weather. Botrytis can be treated with any fungicide recommended for roses.

Potting:

Oriental lilies can thrive in containers. When potting lilies, adhere to the same cultural practices as when planting in the garden. Ensure containers are proportionate to the size of your lily and avoid freeze damage during particularly hard freezes by moving containers into more protected areas like your garage.

Additional References:

The North American Lily Society -
<http://www.lilies.org/>

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