



Canadian Prairie Lily Society

Newsletter

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THE WILD ONES.....



White Henryi : *L. henryi* x
L. luecanthum var. *centifolium*



L. henryi

There are about 100 lily species distributed throughout the cold and temperature regions of the Northern hemisphere. They have been used in the development of our modern garden lilies. Many species lilies find a special place in our gardens to this day because of their beauty, adaption to cultivation, the availability of bulbs (not taken from the wild) or the ease with which some can be grown from seed.

Species lilies have been divided into seven groups - Martagon group, American group, Candidum group,

Oriental group, Asian group, Trumpet group and the Dauricum group. A number of characteristics were used to create the various groups. The characteristics used were -flower form, leaf arrangement, form of bulb scales, bulb shape and colour, seed germination methods, seed weight, geographic location

Each group has a number of features that each member of the group exhibits and thus makes it clearly different from other in the genus *Lilium*.

The species lily featured in this newsletter is found in the Asian Group and is *Lilium henryi*. *L. henryi* is the

odd "man" out in this group in that it has a coloured bulb, heavy seed and uses epigeal delayed germination.

The Asian group of lily species is large and has more divergent characteristics than most of the other groups, this has given rise to three sub-groups. The characteristics of this group include - scattered leaves, entire bulb scales, erect white bulbs (except *L. henryi*), light seeds (except *L. henryi*, *L. amabile*), Turk's cap flowers, stems more or less stoloniferous with roots. Members of the Asian group that can be found in prairie gardens today include - *henryi*, *trigrinum*, *davidii*, *amabile*, *pumilum* and *cernuum*.

Lilium henryi is the featured species. It blooms late - mid August well after other lilies are finished; stems are vigorous reaching 4 to 7 feet in height and arch gracefully bearing 6 to 12 tangerine blooms with green nectaries. The foliage is dark green. This lily is robust and shows more resistance to virus than most. *Lilium henryi* has been most important in the breeding of our modern garden lilies.

Margaret Driver, Editor CPLS

1) In Praise of *L. henryi*

Ed Soboczenski

Asked to organize the 100 species lilies in order of their beauty or attractiveness, a small percentage of lily enthusiasts would undoubtedly choose *L. henryi* as most beautiful, but the overwhelming majority would certainly choose some other species. A friend of mine insists that *L. speciosum rubrum* is the most beautiful of all, while other wax eloquent about the more dainty species such as *L. canadense* and *L. superbum*. I would choose *L. auratum* based on my love of size, drama, fragrance, and petal substance. Asked to select the most important species lily from the point of view of creating new, tough, disease-resistant, beautiful hybrids which will grow well anywhere and for anyone, most hybridizers, I believe, would choose *L. henryi* as being most important.

Years ago, those who were trying to classify lilies into groupings to simplify understanding them had minimal problems grouping Asiatic, trumpets, and Orientals, but where did *L. henryi* fit? It seemed to be

a loner type lily, which didn't want to form crosses with any known lily species. It was not until the very late 1920s when Debras obtained two seeds from the cross *L. sargentiae* that classification was possible. He called the resulting seedling that survived *L. aurelianense* after Orleans, France, classified *L. henryi* with the trumpets, and published his findings. This cross is alleged to have been previously made by a German worker who did not publish his findings, and, consequently, remains obscure. Subsequent crosses of this nature have provided us with an immense number of exceedingly beautiful hybrid lilies of which many are famous, and are sold in large numbers today. 'White Henry' the second lily named to the Lily Hall of Fame, 'Gold Eagle', and recently the upright Aurelians attest to the value of the first successful cross.

L. henryi would be famous enough for the Aurelians alone if no further discoveries were made with it, but Leslie Woodriff persisted to make the cross onto *L. speciosum rubrum*, an allegedly apomictic lily[a lily that reproduces by apomixis or asexual reproduction. Seed is produced from the parent lily without fertilization/pollinization taking place. This type of reproduction is often associated with polyploidy]. The resulting orientpet, 'Black Beauty', and its conversion to a tetraploid by Griesback and other led to the large and growing family of orientpets and tetra orientpets, which, like aurelians have greatly expanded the range and growing ease of an exceedingly beautiful and powerful group of lilies.

I have been unable to locate an article which I first saw many years ago, and which first mentions and shows pictures of crosses between and among several species including *L. henryi* and others like *L. auratum*. Some flowers were absolutely bizarre, but the implication of beauty and disease resistance yet to come was inescapable. Follow-ups on that work can be found in the 1982 NALS Yearbook, page 61, showing pictures of *L. nobilissimum* x *L. henryi* and (*L. auratum platyphyllum* x *L. speciosum*) x *L. henryi*, an exceptionally tough and beautiful lily. Pictures of *L. henryi* x *L. candidum* and of the very beautiful triploid 'Dominique' x (*L. auratum* x *L. henryi*) can be found in the 1990 NALS Yearbook, page 16.

An article in the 1986 NALS Yearbook by Dr. R. Lighty show a black and white picture of 'Eureka,' an *L. henryi* x Asiatic cross hybridized by Dr.C. North at Invergowrie, Scotland. Homick's "Named Lily

Hybrids," 1985 edition, page 84, describes it as a spotted, orange lily. It looks very similar in shape and markings to 'Henry's Surprise,' a spotted yellow lily, produced by Cebeco and sold by B&D Lilies. Other such hybrids offered by The Lily Nook are a series named 'Ivory,' 'Silky,' 'Fiery,' 'Creamy,' and 'Blushing Belles.' My 'Ivory Belles,' planted last fall, grew well, blooming in mid-June with six light-yellow, bowl shaped flowers having a dark reverse. Very nice, but none of the pods on the five flowers pollinated with a selection of pollens produced seeds. Foliage is dark, healthy green. Considering that *L. henryi* is now known to cross with a wide variety of species, should it still be classified with the trumpets?

L. henryi was the first lily that I ever grew in my own garden. An acquaintance was totally renovating his very diverse, extensive gardens early one spring and was selling off much of this current stock. While digging some of his plants, I came across an emerging stem of something I thought was a lily. I loved the Easter and Tiger lilies, the only one I could recognize at the time. In hindsight, it certainly was a terrible time to transplant it, but it grew well in its new location and bloomed late in the summer. Never having seen this rather drab orange, extremely recurved flower blooming at the end of a long floppy stem, falling almost to the ground, I was actually dismayed at my purchase. In the years that followed, I acquired other lilies, mainly those of de Graaf, and revelled in the beauty of 'Imperial Gold,' 'Black Dragon,' and other new introductions. Gradually over the years, that first *L. henryi* became so highly shaded and crowded in among flowering shrubs that it disappeared. I was not to own another *L. henryi* for some years when, in about 1970, I greatly expanded my lily holdings and added the second *L. henryi*. This has greatly multiplied and continues to persist in my garden, providing pleasure and interesting seeds for myself, my friends, and for the various seed exchanges.

Sometime in the late 1970s, I became aware of *L. henryi citrinum* 'Ypsilante' from Charles Kroell, a selection made by him some time ago and named for a city in Michigan. It seems to be doing quite well planted in a shady location in my garden here in Lewes.

One of the most stunning selections of *L. henryi* was a white version grown by Josephine Henry from seeds of *L. henryi citrinum* obtained from the NALS Seed

Exchange, and described in the 1988 NALS Yearbook, page 25. The colour picture shows an *L. henryi* shaped flower, white with a large green nectary, margined with dramatic, long, white, papillae, and having red-brown tick marks along the edges of each petal. It is named *L. henryi* 'Josephine,' but was tragically lost rather quickly after it was described.

I am sure that I have only scratched the surface in bringing this information concerning *L. henryi*, its selections, and its numerous tough, beautiful hybrids to you. Much more immensely interesting information can certainly be found by looking a bit further. However, this certainly is sufficient to prove my point that *L. henryi* is an exceedingly important lily. If you aren't growing it, why not buy a bulb or two of this giant of lilydom to become familiar with it first hand? And if you purchase any of its hybrid progeny, you certainly can count on having them survive and beautify your garden for many years to come.

2.) *The Species "Animal"*

Warren Summers

L. henryi was one of the first species bulbs I obtained as a neophyte liliophile. It was purchased at the New England regional Lily Group fall bulb sale in 1974. This lily has thrived and multiplied in the garden in various soils and conditions, full sun to moderate shade, and without any special care. It is the longest-lived lily in my garden.

As time went by I began to appreciate the subtlety of its beauty and durability. *L. henryi* has a mahogany red bulb which rodents don't relish and leave alone. It is resistant to most of the diseases which doom lilies to the graveyard including virus, and root and bulb rots. Other unique traits include raised fleshy papillae, long stamens and pistil, a beautiful recurved turkscap flower form, orange anthers and a prominent green star-like nectary. *L. henryi* is a true garden "animal" for its beauty and durability. Augustine Henry, a plant explorer from Ireland, discovered this lily in 1888 growing on the limestone cliffs of the Ichang gorge of the Yangtze River in the Hupek province of China. Dried specimens were sent to Kew at the time and catalogued by Baker. In 1900, large bulb shipments were sent to America and England where it was introduced to gardens. At the

time, E. H. Wilson surveyed the original location in the Ichang gorge and found it had been virtually exterminated due to collecting; however, he discovered it in other locations 50 miles north-west of Ichang. Rainfall in its native habitat averages 30 inches in the summer, the autumn is dry, and winters are fairly severe. In the wild *L. henryi* grows in pockets of decayed vegetable matter overlaid with decomposed leaf mold. *L. henryi* is stem rooting with weak arching stems. One can just imagine these graceful lilies arching over the outcrops in their native habitat. The 1940 Breck's catalog describes *L. henryi* as "(The Yellow Speciosum) a splendid lily which resembles closely the speciosum varieties in form, growing to a height of 4 to 8 feet, and bearing in August from five to twenty flowers of brightly orange-yellow slightly spotted brown, with a band of green in the base of each segment."

The legacy of *L. henryi* only begins with its performance in the garden. Edouard Debras crossed *henryi* with *sargentiae* in the famous L x aurelianense to begin the line of trumpet lilies called Aurelians. Leslie Woodriff crossed *henryi* with *leucanthum* var. *centifolium* to produce 'White Henryi' and with *L. speciosum* to produce the famous 'Black Beauty.' *Auratum platyphyllum* was crossed with *henryi* in Japan and tagged 82-111. 'Black Beauty' and 'White Henryi' were converted to tetraploids to improve fertility and, along with 82-

111, formed much of the genetic base for the now famous orientpet hybrids. The fertility of *L. henryi* was used to bridge the genetic gap in this new race of lilies with the beauty of the Oriental lilies and the "garden animal" traits in the hybrids from the *L. henryi* genetic animal.

L. henryi is an unheralded gift to the lily world - a lily of true distinction and mystery. It is truly fitting and no surprise that *L. henryi* exhibited by Calvin Helmsley, won Best of Show at a recent NALS show in Missouri.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

1. The above articles were first printed in "The Species Lily", The newsletter of the Species Lily Preservation Group, Fall 1998. For those interested in obtaining a membership contact: Maureen Barber/SLPG Membership, 336 Sandeewood Road, Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6L 3R8.
e-mail: mbarber@cgocable.net

2. For bulbs contact:

Hillcrest Harmony Flowers. Box 24, Churchbridge, SK, Canada S0A 0M0. Ph: 306 896 2992.
e-mail: putld@sk.sympatico.ca

The Lily Nook. Box 846, Neepawa, MB, Canada R0J 1H0. Ph: 1-204 476 3225



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you read this message, we may be well into another Saskatchewan winter, but as I write, we are enjoying another beautiful late October day with warm temperatures and exquisitely coloured leaves. The summer of '99 certainly presented prairie gardeners with many surprises and challenges. The cool and rainy weather led to some problems with botrytis, which affects several ornamental garden plants including lilies and peonies, and thrives in the environmental conditions which were present during this growing season.

The lengthy and pleasant fall season has provided ample time for clean up of botrytis infected foliage, which is necessary because the pathogen overwinters in the plant debris. As well, newly acquired lily bulbs have been planted and overgrown clumps have been lifted and divided. At our Heritage Lily Plot at the University of Saskatchewan, Stan Dunville has done a tremendous amount of work amending the soil and planting more bulbs of lily hybrids which have been developed by Western Canadian hybridizers - such as C.F. Patterson, A.J. (Bert) Porter. Thanks to Stan and his crew for all their hard work.

One of the hybridizers whose lilies are represented in

the plot is Dr. Cecil F. Patterson. Dr. Patterson was the head of the Department of Horticulture at the University of Saskatchewan from 1921 until his retirement in 1960. He made enormous advances in lily hybridization, adding colours such as pink, white, cream, lemon and combinations of colours to hardy lilies, which had been previously confined to the yellow, orange and red colour range. Dr. Patterson's cross between *Lilium davidii* var. *willmottiae* and *L. cernuum* led to a number of pastel coloured hybrids including 'Edith Cecilia', 'Lemon Queen', 'Apricot Glow', and 'White Princess'. Both 'Lemon Queen' and 'Edith Cecilia' are fertile and were used extensively in the hybridization program at Oregon Bulb Farms. In his book *Lilies: A Guide for Growers and Collectors*, Ed. McRae calls Dr. Patterson's introduction of *L. cernuum* into the Asiatic Hybrids one of the greatest lily hybridizing breakthroughs of this century. From the *Star Phoenix*, Saskatoon, February 22, 1961, in an article following Dr. Patterson's death comes this quote: "It would be difficult to name anyone, anywhere in the world, who has made a greater contribution to the development of the lily than Dr. Patterson."

At the North American Lily Society International Show in Chicago this summer, Dr. Patterson was honoured

(posthumously) with a very long overdue award - the prestigious E. H. Wilson Award for contributions towards breeding the genus *Lilium*. Those of us who grow and/or hybridize lilies owe Dr. Patterson a great debt of gratitude for his work and we are very pleased that he has finally been honoured with this award.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to add to their lily collections through the Fall Bulb Sale. Thanks to Bulb Sales Chairperson John Bond and to all who helped with digging, packaging and working at the sales tables. The sale of bulbs is an important source of revenue for our Society and allows CPLS to fund two scholarships in memory of Andy Dingwall (University of Saskatchewan) and Milt Bell (Olds College, Alberta)

Don't forget to renew your CPLS Membership.

On behalf of the CPLS Executive I wish everyone a safe and joyous Holiday Season.

Barbara Adams-Eichendorf



Membership Renewal.....

Your membership expiry date can be found in the **lower right corner** of the address label on your newsletter.

When your membership comes due a red stamp saying " *Membership expired Time to renew!*" will appear on the front page of your newsletter. A renewal form accompanies the December newsletter for your convenience.

One year membership is \$5.00, 2 year membership is \$10.00. To renew send your cheque to:
CPLS Treasurer, A.E. Delahey, 18 Pony Trail, Riverside Estates, Saskatchewan, Canada S7T 1A2.

E-mail Art at: rivgardlilies@home.com

GARDEN TOURING MANNERS...

Everyone loves to visit gardens. A visit to a beautiful garden is one of the highlights of summer. However, for the gardener-host it can be a living nightmare. Some visitors seem to leave their good manners at the garden gate and launch a full scale invasion - poaching pollen, snapping scapes, grinding greenery underfoot, etc. This type of visitor the host can do without!

There are a few common courtesies the garden visitor should remember and exercise BEFORE and DURING a visit to a garden of a old friend, a new acquaintance or a stranger. The common courtesy rules of garden visiting are simple:

1. Call ahead. Check with the gardener BEFORE entering the garden. Never visit a garden without the host's permission!
2. Stay on the garden pathways. Do not step into beds.
3. Refrain from touching blooms, scapes, greenery in general, garden ornaments and moving plant markers.
4. DO NOT take pollen, seed pods or cuttings without permission. Ask first the majority of gardeners are happy to share.
5. Photograph only with the host's permission. Be aware of your location when photographing in the garden. Leave bulky equipment (tripods, large camera bags, etc) in the car or at home, it can create havoc in a garden. Use a monopode if necessary.
6. Leave your pets and unruly children at home.



CPLS LIBRARY CORNER.....

Do you have questions about your favourite flower, the Lily?

Would you like to read information about the early history of lily hybridizing?

Are you having difficulty in understanding the "new" terms - polyploidy, tetras, 2x4?

Or, would you just enjoy reading about parents, pod and/or pollen that is?

The Canadian Prairie Lily Society has a Library of books ALL pertain to the Lily.

If you require specific information I'll do my best to find

it for you.

Books will be mailed via first class postage, insured; as soon as possible after receiving your request. We ask that within three weeks you return the books in the same manner, via first class postage, insured.

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