

Canadian Prairie Lily Society

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2000

Number 92

President's Message

As another fall season comes to a close and winter approaches I am reminded how much I enjoy the changing seasons. To me, one of the great wonders of living in Saskatchewan has been observing the toughness of the trees, shrubs and perennials that live here with us. On the starkest, most brutally cold winter day I look at the bare trees and the snow covered earth and realize that there is an abundance of life quietly waiting for the first warm spring days to reawaken. The lily bulbs are resting, waiting patiently for another summer season to share their beauty with us.

And speaking of lily bulbs, I hope all of you took advantage of the great selection and prices offered at our Fall Bulb Sale again this year. Bulb sales are a major source of revenue for our Society and help us to fund scholarships at the U of S and Olds College. Thank you to the Bulb Sale Chairperson John Bond for again organizing and overseeing the sale. Thanks also to everyone who helped with the details of the sale, from digging and packaging to manning the sales tables in the mall. The fall sale was a great success thanks to

your efforts!

As many of you are aware, CPLS has three lily plots, one at the U of S and two private acreages. At the University plot, Stan Dunville has done a great deal of work having the soil amended and moving lily bulbs. Stan, Art Delahey and John Bond have been doing the weeding and maintenance work on these plots through the growing season for many years, with help from Ed and Margaret Driver. We need volunteers to help these dedicated people with plot maintenance, as the workload is becoming heavy for such a small group. If you can spend an hour or tow next summer helping with weeding please contact Stan Dunville (306-343-1963) in Spring 2001.

Throughout the long winter hours, remember that time is not wasted if it is spent dreaming of the lilies that will bloom again in summer!

On behalf of CPLS, I wish all of you a safe and joyous Christmas Season. Barbara Adams-Eichendorf.



Lilies adapted to growing on heavy soils.....

Barbara Adams-Eichendorf, Hepburn, Saskatchewan

My garden is 50 kilometres north of Saskatoon in the village of Hepburn. I've been growing lilies for about fifteen years. Over the years I've observed that there is a noticeable difference in the length of my growing season compared to that of Saskatoon. Hepburn often has its first snowfall of the winter a week or more before Saskatoon experiences snow. In spring my yard is about a week to ten days slower to awaken than yards in Saskatoon. I'm sure that part of this difference is due to the heat island created by the city. My soil conditions are also not ideal for lilies. My garden soil is fairly heavy silty clay loam, which doesn't provide the good drainage which almost all lilies require. I've grown several hundred different lily cultivars over the years and have found that there are some cultivars which are much more tolerant of heavier soils and drainage which is less than perfect.

The following are a few cultivars which have flourished in the less than ideal cultural conditions which my year offer.

One of the earliest cultivars to bloom in my yard is 'Jolly Miller'. This is an upfacing apricot coloured lily with large flowers, showing a sprinkling of black spots towards the centre of the petals. This lily grows to about 18 inches tall in my yard. I've observed that on the heavier soils, lilies (and other crops such as carrots) generally grow shorter or smaller than in lighter, sandier soil. The petals of 'Jolly Miller' have a very good substance and when this lily is in bloom it is lovely. Shades of orange are not my favourite colours, but I can forgive this lily its orangeness because it blooms early and after a long winter I'm, starved for the sight of a lily blossom.

'Marlene' is a more recent introduction which has been a pleasant surprise for me. This is an upfacing cultivar which grows to about 36 inches in my yard. The large flat flowers are white with pink tips, and appear mid season. I planted this lily in a bed which

had clay subsoil mixed into it when trenching was done for a waterline. In the space of about 5 years 'Marlene' has formed a large healthy clump in much less than ideal conditions. When I planted the bed, I added a lot of peat moss to improve the tilth of the soil, but there is such a high clay content that organic matter should be added yearly. 'Marlene' hasn't noticed yet that I've been negligent in my gardening duties.

An old favourite, and a late season bloomer which is outstanding in my yard is 'Joanna'. This is a tall lily with a nicely shaped inflorescence, held upright on sturdy stems. Flower colour is rich yellow with an orangish flame in each petal. I planted this lily in the same bed as 'Marlene' and both have performed very well in that location.

When the cultivar 'Tiger Babies' became available, I bought a bulb because I found the flowers very attractive. However, in my soil and climatic conditions this lily has not performed very well. It has not been as vigorous as I had hoped. I planted a bulb of 'Katinka' a couple of years after planting 'Tiger Babies' and have found 'Katinka' to be far superior in my garden. These lilies are quite similar to each other in colour and on both the flowers are down-facing. Flower colour is a pale peachy-buff with a generous sprinkling of chocolate spots. In my garden 'Katinka' grow about 40 inches and blooms mid-season.

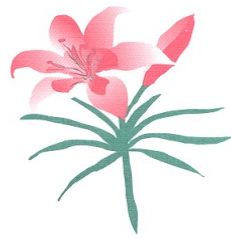
I am partial to bi-colour and brushmarked lilies, and to lilies which are unusual. 'Latvia Promise' fits the description for unusual. The flowers are pale yellow with the inner third to half of the petals heavily, densely marked with a 'speckles' pattern in dark reddish-brown. This is a strong, healthy lily which I've had in my garden for about 4 years. It blooms in mid season with up-facing flower and reaches a height of about 30 inches.

I have grown all of these lily cultivars for a least four year and have found all of them to be outstanding performers in my garden. I would recommend them

to gardeners who enjoy growing lilies and especially for gardeners who, like me face the challenge of providing drainage in heavy soil.

[Editor's Note: 'Joanna' is one of a number of seedlings resulting from the crossing of *Lilium wilsonii* var. *flavum* with 'Connecticut King'. The seedlings from this cross were extremely uniform in appearance

- all were rich yellow with gold blotches and a few spots at the base of the petals, the difference being the intensity of colour. Thus it is sometimes difficult to tell them apart. This group gave rise to a series of lilies named and registered as - 'Adelina', 'Cordelia', 'Joanna' (a.k.a 'Yellow Giant'), 'Pollyanna' and 'Vanessa'.]



Recalling 2000.....

Margaret Driver

2000 was a busy and exciting year for our society. The first event was Gardenscape'2000 the annual three day horticulture event takes place every March in Saskatoon. Once again CPLS participated with a booth. This event is welcome after a cold winter - information about plants, gardening tools and techniques is always plentiful, it's a great place to meet old friends and make new ones. CPLS had a eye-catching display for the event. The display featured a research project involving the 'prairie lily' (*Lilium philadelphicum*). Convenor: Jim Sullivan.

CPLS Annual General Meeting and Spring Fling was held in April 10th, at Dutch Growers Garden Centre, Saskatoon. Art Delahey gave a talk on 'Weed Control in Lily Plots'. Members photos and slides were viewed.

The Lily Photo Contest was a great success with many very good entries. In fact the entries were so numerous the judging was not yet completed at the

time of writing the newsletter. The final winner(s) will be announced in the March Newsletter and prizes will be awarded at the Spring Fling in 2001. Convenor: Jim Sullivan.

The Annual Lily Show held at The Mall in Lawson Heights was a great success. Convenor: Barbara Adams-Eichendorf.

Annual Fall'2000 Bulb Sales: both the Members bulb sale and Public bulb sales were held and again were successful. We had some extremely good bulbs for sale and they were snapped up early! Income derived from the bulb sale is used primarily to help fund our two scholarships. Convenors: John Bond and Bob Caldwell.

CPLS Garden Plots: The plots are located on private land and at the University of Saskatchewan. The plots allow CPLS to maintain a source of Heritage Lilies and also provide bulbs for the annual bulb sales. The

plots require a lot of attention but reward the society in many ways. Convenors: John Bond, Art Delahey and Stan Dunville.

Fall Information Meeting was held in early October and provided timely information on various aspects of lily culture Those who missed the meeting missed a

good one. Convenor: Barbara Adams-Eichendorf.

Thanks to all convenors and members who helped in the special CPLS events and projects in 2000. Your participation makes these activities possible. The executive looks forward to member input and participation in 2001. [MED]

Coming Events.....

MARCH 2001

GARDENSCAPE'2001. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Date & Place TBA

MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY. Spring Seminar. Date March 17, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

APRIL 2001

CANADIAN PRAIRIE LILY SOCIETY. Annual General Meeting & Seminar. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Date & Place TBA.

ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY. Annual General Meeting & Spring Seminar. April 21, Holiday Inn, The Palace, 4235, Calgary Trail North, Edmonton, Alberta.

JULY 2001

ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY. Sixth Annual Martagon Lily Show, Devonian Botanic Gardens,

Devon, Alberta.

NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY. International Show and Meeting will be hosted by the ONTARIO REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY, July 11 to 15, 2001. Ontario, Canada.

CANADIAN PRAIRIE LILY SOCIETY. Annual Lily Show. Tentative date & place - July 20 & 21, The Mall at Lawson Heights, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Chairperson: Barbara Adams-Eichendorf.

ALBERTA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY. Annual Lily Show. July 20-21 at the Bonnie Doone Shopping Center, 83 St. and 82 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta.

MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY. Annual Lily Show. July 27-28, Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Renewal notice.....

Your membership expiry date can be found in the lower right corner of the address label on your newsletter. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

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 will accompany the December newsletter for your convenience.

Please note the membership dues have increased as of 2001 to help defray the increase in costs for CPLS activities - such as the annual show, postage for

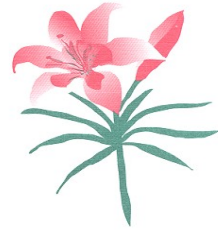
newsletter, etc.

e-mail: rivgardlilies@home.com

Beginning January 1, 2001 a One year membership is \$7.00 or 3 year membership is \$18.00.

To renew your membership send your cheque to:

CPLS Treasurer
A.E. Delahey
18 Pony Trail
Riverside Estates, SK, Canada S7T 1A2.



From the Editor's Desk.....

All those lily bulbs I was not going to purchase this fall have been planted and are probably setting out roots as I write this note! I did store a few martagons using a modified 'garbage pail method outlined in a previous newsletter. In theory it should work, I'll know in spring.

Several catalogues have arrived but I have set them aside till January when they will be really welcome and provide a respite from the winter blahs! Trumpet bulbs do best for me if planted in spring so I will be adding a few to the garden along with some Longipets (trumpet-longiflorum crosses). Spring 2001 is just around that corner.

The CPLS newsletter needs articles from the membership. Articles about general culture, fertilizing, pot culture, forcing lilies, companion plants in lily beds, lily diseases/pests, hybridizing, lily species, lily classification, lilies in floral design, advances in lilies, showing lilies or notes based on your personal experiences growing/showing/ hybridizing lilies are of great interest to all and can be very helpful. Please consider writing for your newsletter.

Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year

Your editors would really appreciate getting some articles from the membership - our society has many knowledgeable members so let's all contribute to make the newsletter interesting and useful to all.

Any article submitted will be considered for publication, please include your name and a complete address. Newsletter **DEADLINES** are February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. So get pen to paper, fingers to keyboard and send your words to :

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Mailbag.....

Dear Ms. Driver,

I just wish to Thank the Canadian Prairie Lily Society sincerely for the generous scholarship you have awarded me. It came as a great surprise but it is generously appreciated in helping to further my education in Horticulture at the U of S. Thank you again for granting me this award.

Sincere thanks. Megan Payne, Saskatoon, SK.

Judges from the 2000 CPLS Lily Show.....



Left to right: Dani, Allan, Amanda, Herb and Margaret - say cheese guys!