



Canadian Prairie Lily Society

Newsletter

MARCH 2001

Number 93

President's Message

The days are getting longer and spring will soon be here! I'm not sure what to expect as this winter season has been unusual to say the least. I am concerned with the lack of moisture in our area; we had poor soil moisture in the fall and have had very little snow this winter. This is a great relief from the point of view of having to do very little shovelling, however the trees, lilies and perennials all depend on good soil moisture in spring to grow and flourish. But, as we all know, a month from now my concerns about soil moisture may be invalidated by a late winter snowstorm, or early spring rains.

One of the great joys that I experience in my life is planting lily seed in January which have been collected from the hybridizing that I have done the previous summer. I plant them in a sterile potting medium in deep pots and place them under fluorescent light in my spare room about 70 degrees F. After about 2 weeks the first little green hooks appear above the surface of the potting medium. The tiny lily plant straightens the little hook into an upright single cotyledon (seed leaf) and the miraculous process is underway. It amazes me to know that in two or three years these tiny delicate lily seedlings will grow into full sized blooming plants, and I will be able to see the results of my hybridizing efforts. As I write, the first tiny lily plants are just

beginning to emerge, and my imagination is running wild with thoughts of the wonderful hybrids which might result.

And speaking of hybridizing, be sure to attend our Annual General Meeting. We will be highlighting the work of several Prairie hybridizers. Canadian hybridizers have done exceptional work with the *Lilium* genus, and prairie hybridizers have been very prominent in this area for many decades. Dr. Cecil F. Patterson began working with lilies in the 1930's at the University of Saskatchewan, and two of his lily hybrids, 'Edith Cecilia' and 'Lemon Queen' were used extensively by other hybridizers to produce hardy Asiatics in a wide range of pastel colors. A.J. (Bert) Porter, who founded Honeywood Nursery near Parkside, Saskatchewan, developed 'Red Carpet', which was the first outstanding short lily cultivar. This lily was also used extensively by other hybridizers, particularly to develop lilies suitable for pot culture and for planting in borders. We have reason to be very proud of the work done by these pioneers of hybridizing, and of the hybridizers who are carrying on their legacy.

The CPLS Executive has decided to further highlight the work of Canadian hybridizers by instituting a new award at the lily show. Look for more details in the

Show Brochure which will be included with the June Newsletter.

As always, we need volunteers to help with our various projects, which include the booth at Gardenscape, weeding the lily plots this summer, and setting up the Lily Show. The time and effort that each

volunteer gives to our society is very greatly appreciated.

I hope to see you at the Lily Booth at Gardenscape!

Barbara Adams-Eichendorf



The Weed Wars with ***Art Delahey***

Weeds are segregated into various categories depending upon their growth habits. Annual weeds such as redroot pigweed begin their growth in the spring and mature later in the season after setting seed for next year's crop. Winter annuals germinate in the fall, establish growth which then becomes dormant and survives over winter, then begins growth in the early spring, maturing in early summer. Biennials germinate from seed in the first year, produce top-growth but no seed, establish a root system which overwinters to produce new growth and seed the following year. Perennials have root systems which survive over winter and establish new top-growth each season to produce seeds before being frozen into dormancy for the winter. As a gardener one must identify and categorize any weed problem in order to be able to establish a sound control program. Manual control (hoeing) will certainly work on annuals but leads to much difficult work and frustration in the case of perennials. Their root systems intertwine with those of garden plants which are disrupted through physical removal of the weed.

THE ENEMY - *classes of weeds* and examples:

Annuals - red-root pigweed, lamb's quarters, common groundsel, purslane, chickweed, wild mustard, common peppergrass, round leaved mallow, spear leaved goosefoot, kochia.

Winter Annuals - stinkweed, shepherd's purse, flixweed.

Biennial - goat's beard

Perennials - dandelions, Canada thistle, quack grass, brome grass.

Obviously the gardener's approach to weed control depends upon the type and quantity of weeds, the amount of labour and time to be dedicated, and the objective - eradication or satisfactory control. Depending on these factors the gardener may choose to follow a manual program, a chemical program, or a combination of the two methods. In most lily gardens we opt for the latter.

What are the pros and cons of a chemical control program?

CONS - *many herbicides are non-selective (they kill all vegetation),*

- spray drift can seriously damage or kill sensitive plants - (tomatoes are a great indicator of the presence of chemical),

- the gardener's sensitivity or allergy to the chemical,

- soil residue may prevent the planting of subsequent crops or the build-up may damage growth in following years,

- in many cases timing of application is critical (holidays).

PROS - *used correctly chemicals can eradicate problem weeds,*

- labour input is reduced considerably,

- fewer weeds escape to set seed, thereby gradually cleaning up the garden,
- elimination of a perennial problem can make manual control of annuals much less laborious.

THE ALLIES - *classes of chemicals*

Chemicals can be divided into two main classifications - pre-emergent and post-emergent. As the name suggests pre-emergent chemicals are put on or into the soil prior to growth beginning in the spring. Fall is the usual time of application. They have the advantage of being able to be placed when time allows as the garden is cleaned up. Post-emergent chemicals can be used at various stages of growth of the weeds depending upon the weeds' most susceptible period of growth and climatic conditions. Timing can be critical with some of the post-emergents so a spell of bad weather will often rule out their use and efficacy. In either case manufacturers' directions should be followed to the letter -more is not better when chemicals are concerned!

PRE-EMERGENT

Trifluralin - tradename Treflan. Inhibits growth of the roots and shoot tips as weeds germinate and begin to emerge. It must be incorporated into the top 1.0-1.5" of soil. Effective on chickweed, purslane, lambs' quarters and red-root pigweed but misses wild mustard and stinkweed. Subsequent usage can result in soil build-up and damage to later crops. It can only be purchased in agricultural quantities - 22.7kg.bags - and is applied a 2.25 kg per acre. It has been used successfully on lilies over several years but caution has to be advised.

Dichlobenil - tradename Casoron. Available as a granular formulation which can be applied either in the fall (preferable) or early spring. It is simply sprinkled on the soil surface. It is available at garden centres in 2 and 15 kg bags. It is a systemic herbicide absorbed by the emerging weed roots and weeds are control before they emerge. Effective against chickweed, purslane, groundsel, knotweed, lambs' quarters, mustard, pigweed, shepherd's purse, dandelion and sow thistle among others (a broader range than Treflan). It is applied at 1 kg per 600 sq. ft. so there is a greater safety factor than in applying Treflan. It is reported to have been used on lilies but tests will continue in fall '99 to verify its safety.

POST EMERGENT

2,4-D Amine - a systemic herbicide which is absorbed

through the foliage and translocated to actively growing areas resulting in twisted growth and subsequent browning. It is sold in various sizes under many tradenames. Vapour drift risk is low, action takes time (7-10 days) and risk of tolerant plant injury is low. The writer has used it effectively in removing heavy weed infestations in lilies by directing the spray at the base of the stems. Caution must be used on seedlings. It controls the common annuals excepting chickweed and purslane. Mix at 1.5 oz. per gallon of water.

2,4-D, Mecoprop, Dicamba - tradename Killex, Lawn Weed Doctor. Another systemic herbicide sprayed on actively growing young weeds. It does not vaporize and breaks down in the soil in 30 days. This product is effective against chickweed, purslane, dandelions, lamb's quarters, mustard, knotweed and top-growth of Canada thistle, and is best used as a lawn and pathway spray rather than directly on lilies.

Bromoxynil + MCPA ester - tradename Buctril M. Available only in agricultural quantities and formulations. It is the herbicide of choice for common groundsel, and handles most annual and winter annuals. It is not very effective on perennials - kills top growth only. Used at 1 oz./gal up to the 8-leaf stage it is very effective on groundsel, killing the plants with 3-5 days. Caution has to be used to not direct it on the lily stems or seedlings as they are susceptible.

Glyphosate - tradename Roundup, Clear-it, Side-kick. A non-selective herbicide which kills any green plant it touches. It is one of the most effective and safest herbicides on the market. It is odourless, does not vaporize and dissolves easily in water. Because it is innocuous to living tissue it circulates freely through the plant, reaching all areas before damage is done. It acts by blocking protein manufacture thereby shutting down the plant's normal metabolic process. Any glyphosate which lands on soil is tightly bound to the soil particles, so tightly that plant roots cannot detach it, so there is no residue build-up. Soil bacteria attack and naturally destroy it. Since it highly soluble in water and poorly absorbed by the digestive tract glyphosate is rapidly excreted from the body, unchanged. Glyphosate is most effective in early spring on new growth or in the fall when the plant is rapidly building root reserves for the following year.

STRATEGIES AGAINST WEEDS

Manual control - hoe, hoe, hoe! If time and effort are of no concern hoeing and picking weeds will keep them under control. A sharp hoe can do serious damage in a lily bed if one is careless, so the tendency is to hoe after the lilies are up and the weeds are bigger. Perennials are a problem even to the strongest hoe and gardener - top growth control is as good as you can expect.

Chemical controls :

1. Pre-emergent - excellent control of winter annuals and some perennials can be accomplished by applying Treflan or Casoron in the fall after the lily bed is cleaned up. Great care must be taken to ensure that the correct rate is applied and that incorporation is properly done in the case of Treflan.

2. Post-emergent - a) Winter annuals - spray with 2,4D amine either in the fall when growth is evident, or in the spring prior to the emergence of the lilies. Spraying can be done after emergence but care has to be taken to keep the spray off the lilies and weeds can be missed.

b) Summer annuals - spraying summer annuals is not recommended unless you have to, and then only if you have a steady hand and nerves of steel. Chemical spray can hit the young seedlings and wipe them out. If the problem is common groundsel you have no alternative other than a great deal of hoeing. Buctril M to the rescue, spray on a calm day and keep the losses to a minimum.

c) Perennials - there is no better time and treatment than Roundup in the fall after the lilies have matured or been frozen down. Use the correct rate and spray everything -- you will not harm the lilies. If necessary Roundup can be used in the spring but control can be limited if lilies emerge early or if it is a dry, hot spring.

SECRETS TO SPRAYING LILIES

1. Know the area to be covered.
2. Mix the correct amount of chemical for that area with the proper amount of water.
3. Use a good quality sprayer in good operating condition. A 1 or 2 gallon hand sprayer is easily carried and contains enough mixture to cover a sizeable area. It must have an adjustable nozzle, filters and a wand long enough to get close to soil surface without permanently disabling your back. Clean the filters and oil the pressure pump before starting.

4. Spray evenly - walk at a constant rate and move the wand back and forth in a steady rhythm if you are doing a wide area. Keep the wand low and directed at the base of the lilies (stems can ignore most chemicals) and watch for the little seedlings.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

Treflan - used at Riverside Gardens for several years until there was a noticeable residue build-up. This residue coincided with some dry summers and frost to possibly cause a population decline in our plots. Insufficient fertilization could have also contributed. The late Dr. J.M. Bell used Treflan with considerable confidence and satisfaction to control puslane and chickweed.

CPLS McKercher Plot: Common groundsel was introduced into the garden when Andy Dingwall established his original plantings there. It became a very serious problem which had to be kept under control annually, thereby causing a sizeable expense for labour for CPLS. The writer undertook to see if a Buctril M spray program would offset the labour. Two sprayings were done during the summer catching the groundsel prior to the 8-leaf stage. Gramoxone was used on occasion to burn out any volunteer grains and grasses from the straw placed between the rows. In the fall the entire plot was sprayed with RoundUp to remove the Canada thistle, quack grass and brome grass which had come in with the straw. It also cleaned off the winter annuals although these were not a big problem. In spring 1999 there were scarcely any growth prior to lily emergence but groundsel was expected as the spring progressed. Future control will involve Buctril M sprayed cautiously during the summer and fall applications of RoundUp as warranted. In fall 1999 we intend to try Casoron on some lilies to observe the results and, if it looks good we will probably treat all three of the CPLS plots in fall 2000.

[Editor's Note: Refer to a follow-up article titled 'Weed Control Trials' in the CPLS Newsletter no. 91, September 2000.]



CPLS NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

A successful society is a result of membership participation. CPLS needs its members input to remain a successful, viable society. There are specific areas in which members can volunteer their expertise and hands. Remember - many hands lighten the load.

Here are some areas in which you may be able to help CPLS in the coming year -

1. LILY PLOT MAINTENANCE - Plot managers need help with weeding and general plot maintenance during June, July and August. For details as to how you may help please call Stan Dunville at 343-1963.

2. LIBRARY - our library has been well looked after for a number of years by Diann Putland. Diann would like to step down from this position now. If you are interested in helping out as librarian and would like details about the librarian's duties please contact Barbara Adams-Eichendorf (306) 947 2830 and Diann Putland at (306)-896-2992.

3. LILY SHOW CHAIRPERSON - if you are interested in the "inner workings" of how to stage a lily show now is your chance! Our current show chairperson would like an assistant. For details on how you can help contact Barbara Adams-Eichendorf (306) 947 2830.

From the CPLS Library

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.

Address your request to:

CPLS Librarian

Diann Putland

Box 24, Churchbridge, SK, S0A 0M0

Call: 306-896-2992 or e-mail Diann at putld@sk.sympatico.ca

Coming Events.....

MARCH 17, 2001

MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY: Spring Seminar. Holiday Inn Airport West, Portage Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Speaker: Dr. Robert Griesbach. Registration - \$25.00 - includes coffee breaks, and noon feast. To register send your cheque to: MRLS c/o Marlene Puls, 99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg, MB. R3T 2X6.

MARCH 30 & 31, and APRIL 1 2001

GARDENSCAPE'2001: Saskatoon's Annual Spring Gardening Show will be held at the Trade Centre Building - Saskatoon Prairieland Exhibition, Saskatoon. CPLS will be taking part in this annual event. Volunteers are needed to help with our booth. If you can help please contact: Bob Caldwell, 374-

2873.

APRIL 2, 2001

CANADIAN PRAIRIE LILY SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting & Seminar - Spring Fling! will be held on Monday, April 2, at the Dutch Growers Garden Centre, 685 Reid Road, Saskatoon. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Speaker : Art Delahey -'Canadian Lily Hybriziers'. All members are welcome.

APRIL 21

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

Errata.....Dec 2000, #92, page 3

[Editor's Note: 'Joanna' is one of a number of intensity of colour. Thus its is sometimes difficult to seedlings resulting from the crossing of *Lilium wilsonii* tell them apart. This group gave rise to a series of lilies var. *flavum* with 'Connecticut King'. The seedlings from named and registered as - 'Adelina', 'Cordelia', this cross were extremely uniform in appearance - all 'Joanna' (a.k.a 'Yellow Giant'), 'Pollyanna' and were rich yellow with gold blotches and a few spots at 'Vanessa'.] the base of the petals, the difference being the

***Interested In Judging? Want to learn How?
Well read on and then phone!***

CPLS is considering running a Judging School between July 27 and July 30. The dates within this period are not yet set. Your president Barbara would like all those interested in participating to telephone her at 306-947-2830 or contact her at *GardenScape* or *Spring Fling!*

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.

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.....

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.

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 :

Mail to:**CPLS NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Margaret/Ed Driver
22 Red River Road
Saskatoon, SK, Canada
S7K 1G3

e-mail: edriver@sk.sympatico.ca



Photo Contest Winners!!!

The CPLS Photo Contest Committee had their work cut out for them when judging the many excellent entries submitted by CPLS members this fall. The WINNERS: Margo Reekie - 1st Place, Sharon Newton - 2nd Place and Phyllis Elder 3rd Place. Congratulations !

bulb collections) at our Annual General Meeting - Spring Fling!. The prizes - 1st prize: collection of 5 lily bulbs, 2nd prize - collection of 4 lily bulbs and 3rd prize - collection of 3 lily bulbs.

The winners will receive their prizes (certificates for lily

The Aims of CPLS.....

The Canadian Prairie Lily Society was formally founded in 1973 by a group of individuals with a strong interest and love for the genus *Lilium*.

The **aims** of the society then and now are:

1. to promote the interest of growing lilies in home gardens
2. to provide information in matters pertaining to growing lilies in the garden.
3. to sponsor a public exhibition of lilies annually in July and award judged exhibits.
4. to encourage hybridizing lilies and recognize outstanding achievements in this field.

The society sponsors several annual events for its members - Fall bulb sale (Sept/Oct), a judged lily show (July), informational meetings, and the annual general meeting (Spring).

The society publishes a quarterly newsletter and has a library for use by its members.

The society sponsors events that are open to the general public - informational meetings, judged lily show (July), information/display booth at Gardenscape (March), and Fall Bulbs Sales (Sept/Oct).

The society maintains a Heritage lily garden plot to display the glory of the garden lily and to honour the achievements of Canadian Lily Hybridizers.

The society helps to fund scientific research of the genus *Lilium*, and two annual scholarships in Horticulture - the T.A. (Andy) Dingwall Memorial Scholarship, Horticulture Science, University of Saskatchewan and the J.M. (Milt) Bell Memorial Scholarship, Olds College, Olds, Alberta.

Membership in the society is open to all interested in growing, showing and hybridizing lilies.

