

# **Canadian Prairie Lily Society**

## **Newsletter**

September 2001

Number 95

## ***Planting and Care For Lilies***

### **Physical Characteristics of Lily Bulbs**

Lily bulbs occur in five different types: concentric, rhizomatous, sub-rhizomatous, stoloniferous and stoloniform. Most of the commercially available bulbs are concentric, meaning that they are roughly circular with the growing point near the centre.

The bulb consists of a solid basal plate which is actually a modified stem, and bulb scales which grow upward from the basal plate. Bulb scales are actually modified leaves which are used for nutrient storage. The bulb scales are loosely arranged in an overlapping pattern and do not have a papery covering like an onion or a tulip bulb (imbricate).

The basal plate produces roots and buds for new growth. Lilies produce two types of roots: contractile (basal) and feeder(stem). Contractile roots grow downward from the basal plate and pull the bulb downwards as it grows. Feeder roots grow both from the basal plate of the bulb, and in many lilies also grow from the portion of the stem which grows underground above the bulb.

The feeder roots which grow on the underground portion of the stem are annual - they die when the foliage dies in the fall. The basal roots are long-lived

(thicker, wrinkled-looking).

### **Cultural Requirements**

The physical characteristics of the lily bulb give us indicators of how to treat it in storage and in planting. Because the bulb does not have a period of complete dormancy like a tulip bulb, and does not have a protective outer covering, and has long lived basal roots, it is important in storage not to let the bulb dry out.

It is also important not to store the bulb in conditions which are too damp as this may lead to problems with disease. This is why you will often see bulbs packed in peat moss and then placed in plastic bags. For long term storage, cool temperatures are necessary.

Because the bulbs will probably remain in the same place in the garden for several years, proper soil preparation is essential; perennial weeds should be eradicated, and soil should be worked to a depth of at least 12 inches or to 20 inches if this is practical.

GOOD DRAINAGE is absolutely essential for the health of lily bulbs.

The addition of organic matter to the soil is a good

way to improve the tilth of the soil, improve the drainage and also improve the soil fertility. Peat moss and compost are both good organic additives for growing lilies, however, well rotted manure must be used with caution as there is some evidence that it can promote disease if it comes in contact with lily bulbs. well-rotted manure works well as a top dressing for the soil around lilies.

Lilies prefer cool roots; mulch or a shallow-rooted ground cover is beneficial in moderating soil temperatures.

### FERTILIZER

Consider the fertility of your soil; light sandy soil is often highly leached and will have low fertility. Heavier soils may be more fertile but those with high clay content often suffer from nutrient unavailability caused by anaerobic conditions. The addition of organic matter to the soil will improve the structure of all soils. When organic matter which is not completely composted is added to the soil, the soil micro-organisms use nitrogen in the process of breaking down this material; nitrogen deficiency may occur.

Soil acidity, alkalinity and salinity all influence the availability of nutrients for plant use, if you are unsure of soil's fertility, have a soil test done.

When choosing a fertilizer to use for lilies, consider that if you are planting in the fall there will be no green growth until spring, so nitrogen added at fall planting time will not be usable to the plant until spring, by which time it may have been lost in gaseous form (volatilization and denitrification) or by leaching.

Bone meal or a bone meal 'plus' fertilizer such as 2-14-0 with a high second number (phosphorous) will encourage root growth.

High-nitrogen fertilizer is not recommended for lilies as this promotes fast, weak growth of foliage and bulbs; weak growth make the lily more susceptible to disease.

### GENERAL PLANTING GUIDELINES

In general, the size of the bulb determines the planting depth; plant so the top of the bulb is under the soil at a depth of two to two and a half times the height of the bulb. It's ok to plant a bit on the shallow

side of these guidelines, as the contractile roots will pull the bulb down to its desired depth.

In light sandy soil plant deeper than in heavy soil; plant Martagons deeper than Asiatics.

Raised beds or planting on a slope will help to provide the necessary drainage in heavier soils.

A layer of mulch will help to keep the soil from heaving in late fall and early winter, protect against those late frosts in spring and keep the soil cool in the heat of summer. Basal rot is a serious fungal disease which affects lilies. It is caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* var. *lilii*, which thrives in warm, wet soil. Because this pathogen can remain alive in the soil for at least three years without a host, it is important not to plant lilies where lilies have previously been grown.

Most lilies require FULL SUN for several hours each day, with the exception of martagons and some species lilies which will grow well in light shade.

Choose an area which has good air circulation, this is important in reducing the impact of the fungal disease botrytis. Botrytis is particularly troublesome in wet weather, or when foliage remains wet for an extended time. Good air circulation allows foliage to dry faster, reducing the conditions which favour the development of botrytis. Avoid using overhead watering methods as this will wet the foliage and may lead to problems.

Lilies are quite drought-tolerant, but will benefit from irrigation during hot dry weather. Be sure to water newly planted bulbs thoroughly to ensure vigorous growth before the ground freezes.

Lilies are affected by several viral diseases; TBV or tulip breaking virus and CMV or cucumber mosaic virus show as streaking or mottling of leaves and as streaking of colour in the petals. Control of aphids is crucial in preventing the spread of virus diseases as aphids carry the virus from plant to plant on their stylets (piercing mouth parts).

Barbara Adams-Eichdorf is a Master Gardener, lily grower hybridizer in Hepburn, Saskatchewan

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## 2001 CPLS Show Report

I am very please to report that the 35th Annual Lily show which was held at the Mall at Lawson Heights on July 19-21, 2001 was a success! As show chairperson, I usually have concerns that circumstances beyond our control, such as drought, hail, wind, and all the other surprises that Mother Nature throws our way will have a detrimental effect on our show. I need not have worried. The stems and decorative arrangements that exhibitors brought to the show were of excellent quality.

There were a total of 27 exhibitors registered. This is down slightly from last year. There were entries in all Classes except the Martagon Class which is to be expected when the show is held in late July. The biggest surprise was the number of entries in Class 6, Single Floret of a seedling hybridized by the exhibitor. There were 137 entries in this class and I think this reflects a strong interest in hybridizing which exists among our membership.

The total number of stems entered was 253, of which 20% were entered in Class 5, Hybrid Seedling. Entries in the three stem collection categories continue to be low, with 4 collections entered.

The Decorative Section was entrancing, as usual. There were 27 entries in this Section, with exquisite and innovative designs displayed.

As show chairperson, I would like to express my thanks to the Judges for generously giving their time, expertise and thoughtful deliberation to the judging process. Judges for the Stem Section were Margaret Driver of Saskatoon, and Allan Daku, Edmonton. Judge for the Decorative Section was Amanda Ryce,

Saskatoon. Your work is much appreciated!

I owe many words of thanks to all of the volunteers who help to bring the show together. I depend on these individuals to perform all of the tasks which must be done in order for the show to run smoothly. For the 2001 show, my thanks to :

**Clerks:Stem Section-** Pat Adams, Strongfield, Sask; Carmel Dodd, Saskatoon; Diann Putland, Churchbridge, Sask. **Decorative Section** - Sharon Newton, Saskatoon.

**Photographer:** Frank Dodd, Saskatoon

**Classification:** Margaret Driver, Saskatoon and Diann Putland Churchbridge.

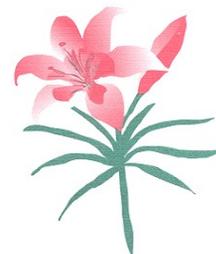
**Scheduling workers:** Bob Caldwell, Saskatoon.

**Transport/Set-up/Take-down of show materials:** Stan and Nell Dunville, Margaret Driver, Sharon Newton, Art Delahey, Jim Sullivan and Dorothy Jendruck.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked at the information desk, and a very special thanks to Pat Adams and Margaret Driver who helped me immeasurable with large and small tasks.

Lastly, my thanks to all of you who took the time to create beautiful decorative arrangements and to those who entered their lilies in the stem section. We are so fortunate to be able to enjoy and share these lovely flowers.

**Barbara Adams-Eichendorf.**



## ***EPLS 2001 Lily Show Prize Winners***

The winners of Major Awards in the Canadian Prairie Lily Society Show 2001 are:

### **SECTION I - STEMS**

Grand Champion Lily Stem; G. H. Green Trophy

Diann Putland, Churchbridge, Sask. 'Coral Fashion'

Reserve Champion Lily Stem

Karen Stevenson, Churchbridge, Sask. 'Nepal'

CPLS Grand Aggregate Award

Diann Putland, Churchbridge, Sask.

Founding President Award for Best Seedling Class 5

J. R. (Bob) Caldwell, Saskatoon, Sask.

Best Three Stem Collection

Diann Putland, Churchbridge, Sask. 'Edith'

T.A.(Andy) Dingwall Award for Best Collection of 6 Stems, Class 10

Don Cockcroft, Saskatoon, Sask.

Canadian Hybridizers' Trophy for Best Canadian Lily Collection

Marian Gilje, Saskatoon, Sask. 'Honey Pink', 'Salmon Cream', 'Sherri Katherine'

Junior Exhibitor Award Class 11

Lisa Erixon, Clavet, Sask. 'Donna Sylvester'

J. C.(Jean) Ericksen Award for Best Pink Lily

Alice Pitka, Saskatoon, Sask. 'Mondeo'

C.F. Patterson Award for Best Registered Patterson Hybrid

Diann Putland, Churchbridge, Sask. 'Rose Dawn'

A.J. (Bert) Award for Best Canadian Hybrid

Dorothy Jendruck, Saskatoon, Sask. Trumpet Seedling

F.(Fred) Tarlton Award for Best Martagon - no entries

P.H.(Percy) Wright Award for Best Red Lily

Diann Putland, Churchbridge, Sask. 'Royal Parade'

### **SECTION II - DECORATIVE**

C. Reavie Award for Best Vase - Marion McIntyre, Saskatoon, Sask.

D. Gilmour Award for Best Basket - Sharon Newton, Saskatoon, Sask.

D. Putland Award for Best Arrangement - Bonita Lundberg, Saskatoon, Sask.

## ***NALS Yearbooks for Sale***

The Canadian Prairie Lily Society has available for sale at \$25.00/copy(including shipping & handling) a limited number of *The Lily Yearbook of the North American Lily Society, Inc.* These yearbooks provide very interesting reading and pertinent information about lilies for both the new and advanced lily grower. Articles on growing, showing and hybridizing lilies,

research and recent advances in the genus *Lilium*, along with special reports and general interest topics appear in each yearbook. A must for your library. The following Yearbooks are available - 1949, 1953-58, 1962-69, 1970-79, 1980-89, 1991-94. If you are interested in purchasing books please contact - Art Delahey, 18 Pony Trail, Riverside Estates,

## ***CPLS Needs Your Help For Fall BULB Sale***

Once again Fall is in the air and lily bulbs need to be dug up, transplanted, and shared with friends. CPLS once again will hold its annual members bulb sale and general public sales in September and the crew is making their digging lists and ordering supplies for these sales. Many interesting bulbs will be available for that special place in the garden. If you have extra bulbs this fall and would like to find a home for them, CPLS would welcome any donations. Please identify and bag the bulbs by name if possible or by colour and height, eg. red/tall.

If you can help with the fall digging, sorting, bagging of bulbs or packing bulb orders please contact Bulb Chairman John Bond at (306) 374 2953. Your help is appreciated.

If you can help at the sales booth during the Fall General Public Bulb Sales at THE Mall at Lawson Heights, September 27, Noon to 8:00pm; 8th Street Co-Op, September 28, 10:00am-4:00pm; Market Mall, September 29, 10:00am-4:00pm please contact Bob Caldwell at (306)374 2873

## ***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

e-mail:putld@sk.sympatico.ca



## *In Memorium*

CPLS has made a donation to the Honeywood (A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery, Parkside Saskatchewan, in memory of the passing of Agnes Saretsky (1932-2001) and John Rybotycki (1931-2000) both appreciated members of the Canadian Prairie Lily Society.

## *CPLS Scholarship Winners*

Canadian Prairie Lily Society sponsors two annual scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. These scholarships are awarded to students studying horticulture at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Saskatchewan and Olds College, Olds Alberta and help pay their tuition fees. The winner in 2001 of the T.A. (Andy Dingwall) Scholarship University of Saskatchewan is **Megan Payne**, Flaxcombe, Saskatchewan and the winner of the J.M. (Milt) Scholarship Olds College is **Beverley Haslegrave**, Alberta. CPLS executive feels strongly in rewarding capable students with a keen interest in horticulture and thanks to the efforts of CPLS members our society is able to do just that.

## *CPLS 2001 Directors and Executive*

### **PRESIDENT**

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### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

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Carmel Dodd, 3319 Ortona St., Saskatoon, SK S7M 3R7. (306)384 2774

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Margaret Driver, 182 Dore Cres., Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4X7. (306)242 5329

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#### **ARCHIVIST**

#### **LIBRARIAN**

Diann Putland, Box 24, Churchbridge, SK, S0A 0M0.

## ***Coming Events.....***

SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

Public Bulb Sale will be held Thursday at The Mall at  
Lawson Heights, 134 Primrose Ave, Saskatoon.  
The sale will be held Noon - 8:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

Public Bulb Sale will be held Friday at the 8TH Street  
Co-Op, 8th Street & Emerson, Saskatoon. The sale will

be held 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2001

Public Bulb Sale will be held Saturday at Market Mall,  
2325 Preston Ave, Saskatoon. The sale will held 10:00  
a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## ***Editor's Desk.....***

You may notice an address change for your editors once again. This is it!! Our moves are completed. A new yard awaits our attention as a number of other things to do. The yard has great possibilities and yes Ed has decided there is too much grass and more flower beds and even a small vegetable garden (raised) will be in the plan. I will try to contain my enthusiasm and not plant too much this fall - there are about 25 pots of daylilies, about 12 pots of lilies mostly martagons which have to find a home shortly and just maybe a few new lily bulbs. This winter will allow for some long term planning before having to remove grass.

As always 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. Mail to: **CPLS NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

**Margaret/Ed Driver**  
**182 Dore Crescent.**  
**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada**  
**S7K 4X7**

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 : E-mail: [edriver@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:edriver@sk.sympatico.ca)  
E-mail: [edriver@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:edriver@sk.sympatico.ca)

## ***Fall Bulb Activity !!!***



*Virginia Howie*

