

Asiatic lilies

- 'Aspenglow'—blush, 2 1/2 ft.
- 'Apollo'—white, 2 1/2 ft.
- 'Connecticut King'—yellow, 3 ft.
- 'Cote D'Azur'—fuschia, 2 ft.
- 'Enchantment'—orange, 3-4 ft.
- 'Grand Cru'—gold w. maroon center, 3 ft.
- 'Golden Pixie'—yellow-gold, 1-2 ft.
- 'Jetfire'—rose-pink w. yellow center, 3 ft.
- 'LaToya'—dark pink-red, 3 ft.
- 'Luxor'—cream w. tangerine center, 3-5 ft.
- 'Sorbet'—white w. raspberry tips, 3 ft.
- 'Montieux'—pink, 2-3 ft.
- 'Shirley'—white w. pale pink center, 3-4 ft.

Oriental lilies

- 'Black Beauty'—dark crimson w. white edge, 4-6 ft.
- 'Casa Blanca'—pure white, 4 ft.
- 'Journey's End'—dark pink spotted, 4-6 ft.
- 'Le Rive'—pink spotted, 3-4 ft.
- 'Mona Lisa'—rose pink w. dark center, 3 ft.
- 'Stargazer'—rose red w. white edge, 3-5 ft.

Trumpet lilies

- 'African Queen'—golden orange w. brown markings outside, 4-6 ft.
- 'Bright Star'—creamy white w. apricot throat, 3-4 ft.
- 'First Love'—pink petals w. apricot throat, 4-5 ft.
- 'Golden Splendor'—gold w. wine markings outside, 3-4 ft.
- 'Heart's Desire'—creamy white w. golden center, 4-6 ft.
- 'Pink Perfection'—dark rose pink, 5-6 ft.

Turk's cap lily

- 'Album'—white, 4-6 ft.
- 'Claude Shride'—dark red, 4-5 ft.
- 'Early Bird'—orange-gold, 4-6 ft.
- 'Marhan'—orange-brown, 4-6 ft.
- 'Shantung'—pink-mauve, 5-6 ft.

Growing Garden Lilies

This publication is available at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/ga.htm>

For more information on selection, planting, cultural practices, and environmental quality, contact your Iowa State University Extension county office. If you want to learn more about horticulture through training and volunteer work, ask your ISU Extension office for information about the ISU Extension Master Gardener program.

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... and justice for all

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Introducing the lily

Lily is a common name used for several different plant species. But daylily, calla lily, toad lily, and surprise lily are not “true lilies.” True lilies are members of the genus *Lilium*. They originate from underground bulbs and produce large, showy blossoms in the summer. True lilies are excellent plants for almost any garden situation. They are versatile and durable, plus they offer gardeners a wide variety of heights, flower forms, and colors. In fact, their presence in the garden is so striking they are often called the “Queen or Grande Dame” of the summer garden.

Growing lilies

Lilies prefer an organic, well-drained soil that is slightly acidic (6.5 pH). Bulbs are normally planted in fall at a depth of three times the height of the bulb, about 6 to 8 inches deep. Container-grown lilies also can be planted in spring and summer. Bulbs of containerized lilies should be planted at the same depth in the garden that they were planted in the container. In heavy, clay type soils, plant them slightly higher. Lilies will not tolerate a wet, soggy soil.

Full sun to light shade is best for most lilies with the exception of the Turk’s cap lily, which prefers partial shade. Mulching is recommended since it keeps the soil cool, conserves moisture, and prevents weed competition.

Several hundred cultivars are available for the Asiatic and Oriental types. The trumpet and

turk’s cap types may be more difficult to find but are well worth the effort. By planting bulbs from each of the different types, you can have lilies in bloom for most of the summer.

Asiatic lilies

The Asiatic lilies are probably the most popular landscape or garden lily. Their upward or outward facing flowers are available in the widest range of colors and are frequently “freckled” with dark spots.

Flowers of bright and pastel shades of almost every color except blue are available.

Asiatic lilies are among the first lilies to bloom in the garden, many beginning in late May or early June. These hybrid lilies are often considered the most durable of the lilies and multiply quickly. Their only limitation is their lack of fragrance compared to some other lily types. Asiatic lilies are available in a wide range of heights (2 to 5 feet) making them great for the back, middle, or front of the border. The “Pixie” series are dwarf types (1 to 2 feet) that are useful in containers.



Oriental lilies

For fragrance and sheer size of blooms the Oriental lilies win hands down. Their flamboyant and sweetly scented blooms begin in mid to late summer, as the Asiatic hybrids are finishing. They are available in a range of

splashy shades of white, pink, and crimson. The open, reflexed petals can be spotted, brushed, or edged with darker or contrasting colors. Oriental hybrids are often taller than the Asiatic types reaching 3 to 6 feet. They perform best when protected from the hot afternoon sun and strong winds.



Trumpet lilies

Trumpet lilies bloom about the same time as the Oriental lilies. Trumpet lilies, however, have spotless, fused petals. Their flowers resemble a trumpet, hence the common name. The highly fragrant, outward-facing flowers were once available primarily in white and yellow, but recent hybridization with the Oriental and Asiatic groups are expanding the color palette. Trumpet lilies reach 4 to 8 feet tall and prefer protection from strong winds.



Turk’s cap lily

Another group of lilies not to be overlooked is the Martagon or Turk’s cap lily. The waxy flowers are smaller than other lilies and appear in mauve, pink, burgundy, yellow-orange, yellow, and white. Many are spotted or freckled. The petals of the downward-facing flowers are strongly reflexed creating a turban-like appearance, hence the name “Turk’s cap.” A woodland native, this is one of the few lilies that will tolerate considerable shade and still perform beautifully. Height ranges from 4 to 7 feet and is best in the middle or back of the border. Bulbs are best planted in the fall.



Enjoying lilies as cut flowers



In addition to being outstanding garden performers, lilies make excellent cut flowers with a long vase-life. When removing flowers to bring inside be sure that at least half to two thirds of the stem and foliage remains to supply food to the bulb. This helps insure abundant bloom next year. Before bringing cut lilies indoors, remove the pollen structures or anthers. Lilies produce large quantities of pollen which can stain clothing and other materials.