



Planting Orienpets (OT), Trumpets, Aurelians & Orientals

Instructions excerpted from LET'S GROW LILIES and adapted to Zone 2 & 3

RULES:

1. Good drainage. Lilies hate wet feet. Raised planters are the ideal. Try to amend clay soil to 18 inch depth before planting most perennials and shrubs. The better prepared the soil and drainage are the closer to show quality blooms you will have.

2. Where to plant. Most lilies do well in sun or partial sun. Usually the more sun the better. As these types of lilies are not as hardy in a Zone 3 climate it is best to locate them to a Southeast to Southwest facing

location. The Trumpet Aurelians are hardier as they have I. Henryi hybridized into them. OT's generally are hardier than Orientals. Some growers plant these tender varieties into pots and then bury the pots deep for the winter.

Note; if you are looking for a Lily Tree, that is a MYTH (commercial advertising), OT lilies get tall, may look like little trees in some climates, but are JUST lilies.

3. Lilies love Humus. Mix it up to 12-18 inch depth. Recipe; 1 part humus (compost or peat moss), 2 parts soil, 1 part sharp sand or vermiculite. This part is especially important if you have clay soil. How much humus? Never too much! If you have clay soil use more humus and sand and less soil in the mix. Your garden plants will thank you.

4. Plant promptly. The sooner your lily starts rooting into its new home the better it will survive the winter. This rule is important with martagons as they are an early lily **and the tender lilies like OT's, Trumpets** and Orientals. **Orientals are best planted in spring** so they have a long time to establish. This will enable a better chance of survival. At best they live about 3 years in Zone 3 gardens. If you keep them longer please share your secrets with ARLS. OT's and Trumpets & Aurelians while more hardy than Orientals are less hardy overall than asiatics or martagons. Give them time

5. How deep? We hear this a lot. Orienpets, Trumpet, Aurelian and Oriental varieties are more intolerant to the early frosts & early cold winter here so plant them deeper DIG A 12 INCH DEEP HOLE, with about 10 inches of soil cover. The more protection they have the less chance the bulb will freeze.

6. Spacing. To allow room of the inevitable bulb division over time (3- 5 Years) place bulbs 4-18 inches apart depending on size and how prolific the variety (if you know). Place in groupings of 3 for a splendid display. Spread out the roots along the bottom of the hole.

7. Feeding? Water Immediately. Even if it is raining they need moisture now. As you pour water on them repeat this prayer '**Come on... GROW**'. Soak them good, this ensures that the bulbs can re-root and be ready for that long cold winter in good shape. The well drained spot you put them in will ensure they do not rot. Fertilize with 2-14-0 or any good bulb slow release fertilizer in the Spring, remember the numbers mean leaves- flowers-roots so select accordingly. For Martagons water in with **luke warm water** (not cold tap water) this seems to help hold off transplant shock and they may not "sulk". This may work for Trumpets, Orienpets & Orientals also to help them develop roots faster for Spring growth.

8. Mark where you put them. Label them with their name. You can show a lily with or without a name but the satisfaction of being able to talk about your babies by name instead of trying to describe the

colour and markings is more satisfying. Be especially vigilant with pets etc as they can rearrange your lily bed and tags, a safe bet is to create a little plan of where you put bulbs and list the names next to the x's that way if your bulb has not moved you can retag without headaches. Lost tags and dug up bulbs have been everyone's problem at one time.

9. Mulch. VERY IMPORTANT TO WINTER MULCH THESE LILIES 4 to 6 inches of peat moss piled over the hill should keep the bulb warm and happy until spring. Uncover it in the spring to let the soil heat up and get that stem growing. Once the stem comes up you can lightly mulch for moisture and weed control. Early emergence means earlier blooming that may avoid the fall frosts and get more energy stored into the bulb for next year. Many growers just dig up Orientals and store them in vermiculite & bulb dust in Ziploc bags and place them in a fridge (not near vegetables) during the Winter. Bulbs must be checked regularly for mould during storage and washed (see #10) and rebagged if mould is found on the bulbs. Dry thoroughly before placing in new bag or the bulb will be too wet and mould will start again.

10. Extra diligence. Some gardeners worry about pests and disease ARLS tries to provide clean, dirt free bulbs to avoid pests like the lily beetle. Most of our bulbs are washed by the wholesaler, the remainder are washed by volunteers & donors. The LILY BEETLE is in ALBERTA. Alberta is cold enough not to have lots of disease and fungal enemies to harm lilies but to ensure cleanliness soak for 20 minutes in a 10% bleach solution before planting and sprinkle with bulb dust during planting to minimize fungal transfer from the soil.