



Fragrant, beautiful and varied, there is surely a lily for every corner of the garden.

‘Cultivated for more than 5000 years, this bulbous perennial herb has to its credit dozens of legends.

The Anglo-Saxons, for example, believed that if a pregnant woman were offered a rose or a lily, her preference would signal the sex of the child. If she chose a lily, the baby would be a boy.

The lily was a symbol of the Greek goddess Hera (Roman: Juno), showing purity and innocence. One tale tells of lilies springing up from drops of milk spilled from Hera’s breast as she nursed Heracles. Lilies were associated with death as well, signifying that in death one regained one’s lost innocence and purity.

PLANTING: Lilies are perfect for important blooms in late June or in July when there is a lack of color in the border...after the Iris and Peonies finish and before the annuals take over.

Spring or Fall planting? Either. Fall: late but in frost-free holes with several inches of mulch on top. Spring: early, as soon as the ground is workable.

For the best home, have ready a raised mound filled with a humus mixture of dampened peat moss, leafmould, perlite, a light, porous, spongy spot for planting. Don’t delay setting out bulbs. Plant bulbs upon arrival, covering them to a depth of 6 inches or more – the rule is to plant to a depth of 3 times their height where the plants will receive full sun (6-8 hrs.) at the tops but shade at soil, 12” apart for small bulbs, 18” or more for large sizes. Then WATER, WATER, even if it’s raining or cold weather!

MAINTENANCE: Early spring - scratch in a generous amount of complete fertilizer (nitrogen needed) after shoots have emerged.

Summer care: water regularly and feed at least once a month until late summer with a liquid organic fertilizer such as Neptune’s Harvest. Remove spent flowers before seed can be set, pod, petals and all, but not the whole stalk, Lilies need their leaves and stem for next year’s performance. Old lily stems should be removed in the Fall. Best to burn, not compost.