



# GROWING YOUR LILLIUMS



**Common Name:** **LILIUM**

**Also known as** Longiflorum – Christmas Lily, November Lily, Oriental - Florist Lily

**Botanical Name:** Liliium spp **Family Name:** Liliaceae **Plant Type:** Fleshy Bulb

**Size:** 70 cm to 120cm **Planting Time:** Winter to Spring **Planting Width:** 20–40cm

**Flowering:** Summer **Depth:** 10–20cm **Positioning:** Full Sun to Part Shade

**General Information:** There are many varieties of lilies; LA Hybrids, Oriental, Asiatic, and Longiflorum. All have long lasting flowers. **Soil:** Well drained, friable and moist. If growing in pots use a potting mix specifically for bulbs. **Watering:** Responds well to generous watering in summer. **Fertilising:** Prepare the soil with well-rotted animal manure or a complete fertiliser before planting. Mulch well to keep soil cool and moist. Liquid fertilising once plants are setting buds is beneficial to keep lower foliage green. Top dress with fertiliser in late winter.

**Pruning:** It is best to remove old flower heads once flowers fade to promote bulb growth. Cut down to ground level once foliage has died off completely. Bulbs can be left in the ground to naturalise or lifted and separated. Replant without delay. Dislikes being moved, wet feet.

**Pests:** Aphids but generally pest resistant. **Ideal for** pots, excellent cut flowers.

**Tips:** Plant immediately after purchase and do not allow the bulbs to dry out. Oriental lilies prefer a cooler, more sheltered position and may require staking and protection from hot winds. Double Tiger Lily liliium lancifolium requires the same conditions as other liliiums except this one grows to a height of 1.5 m and is a little less fussy about soil type. If growing in pots, make sure the pot is 200 mm minimum. Place no more than 3 bulbs per pot, and make sure the bulbs are leaning slightly inwards to encourage plants to support each other. Grow outside in a sunny aspect and pots can be brought inside once flowering. After flowering, or when picking for cut flowers, cut the plant to about half way down the stem to enable the plant to develop the bulb for next year's flowers.