



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter  
www.manitobalilies.ca

Volume 21, Issue 1

Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

March 2004

## President's Message

Today, I walked around the yard looking at the how much the snow had melted and noticing that a few things that were buried beneath the snow are now showing again. There still is two feet of snow, but a foot is gone. Soon, soon it will be gone, uncovering all the sleeping plants. As I walked, I was thinking, wondering and dreaming of what the garden would look like after all of last year's planting activity. Also what still remained to be planted and where they should be planted.

I am eager to start gardening. Plans are swirling around in my head! I have been purchasing seeds for the past two weeks and have done some combined ordering of perennials with some gardening friends. In the next little while, I'll start some seeds. I've checked on my lily scales, some have produced nice little bulblets and others show no trace on the scales (too dry). Some of the martagon seeds have germinated and are now getting their winter chill in the fridge.

I am also looking forward to our Annual Spring Seminar in Brandon this month. It is a great way to start spring, to learn some more about lilies, to see familiar lily fanciers, to talk about our favorite plant as well as all our other favorite plants. It is a wonderful way to begin this new gardening year. I hope to see you there. (Oh, by the way, I hear there 's a chance to buy some more lily bulbs! Please don't let Sandra or Jennifer see me at the bulb table. Try to keep them busy.)

Happy Spring Planning and Planting.  
Ted.

## Lily Questions?

If you have a question or thought on lilies just contact me, 'the editor' and I will publish it on a question and answer spot in the newsletters.

Let me know what else you would like to see published in your newsletter

E-mail: strohman@mb.sympatico.ca or Phone: 476-2536

Mail: Nigel Strohman, Box 846, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

## Question & Answer

**Q:** What is an Orienpet or an OT?

**A:** OT is the abbreviation of the term Orienpet. In a quote from Eddie McRae, "The marriage of the purple-bulb lilies of China (i.e. all trumpet lily species, *L. henryi* and their hybrids) with the Oriental lilies of Japan (i.e. *L. alexandrae*, *L. auratum*, *L. japonicum*, *L. nobilissimum*, *L. rubellum* and *L. speciosum*) has resulted in a group of lilies of great size, vigor and beauty. This group is known as the Orienpets."

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Prairie Lily Breeders:  
**Bruno Bear Hugs Lilies**  
Herbert Sunley, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
NALS Yearbook 1994

Everyone asks me about 'Bold Knight'. I don't blame them. It is a fine natural tetraploid with red out-facing blooms. I will start by telling about 'Bold Knight' and let that lead into my attraction to the genus. Oh yes, my nickname is Bruno and sometimes that includes, 'Bruno the Bear'. This name was given to me once by a nurse in good fun and has been adopted by some of my friends for the humor value. Now, back to 'Bold Knight'.

Early in April of 1969, I decided to go visit Percy Wright. I wanted one or two roses for the south side of my backyard. I was pleased that Percy had little trouble digging up 'Blanche de Coubert' and 'Ruth', the two roses I purchased. These were bagged and we sat down on Percy's back stoop to enjoy the sun and talk about lilies.

We were comparing notes about the lack of success in making certain crosses the summer before when Percy asked me if I would like some lily seed. "I wouldn't mind having some, if you have plenty to spare", I said, thinking about the lack of seed that we had just been talking about. Oh, he said, "I must tell you that it is old seed, some of which I harvested in 1961. It is sitting on the windowsill of the bedroom right above our heads. Do you still want it?"

I said that I would give it a try even if it was old and Percy returned with several packets of his own seed. Most details were clear, but one packet had faded, illegible writing. I dubbed that package, "UNYI", dutifully planted those seeds and was rewarded with two UNYI lilies. One eventually became 'Bold Knight'. It was registered in 1971. In 1969, I harvested 269 bulbs and bulblets of 'Bold Knight' and it was thereafter offered for sale by Art Delahey of Riverside Gardens. It became fairly popular and I

tried to breed with it. It didn't seem to set seed. At our 1984 NALS show, which our Regional CPLS hosted in Saskatoon, David Schultz told me that 'Bold Knight' was a tetraploid. Was I shocked, as I had been trying unsuccessfully to induce a tetraploid with colchicine. Here all the while, I had a natural one under my nose!

Now as requested by your editor, I will tell you how lilies came into my life. About 1960 or 1961, I found bulbs of *L. henryi* and *L. auratum* at Early's Seed and Feed on Avenue A (now, Idylwyld Drive) in among the spring bulbs. I was hoping to find lily seed. I did not know about the North American Lily Society at that time. I remember having heard and read about *L. regale*; and it was the only trumpet lily I even had skimpy knowledge about. I had hoped to find a bulb of *L. elegans* or *L. hollandicum* (whose names I did not know) but which I had seen in many city gardens. I had to settle for *L. henryi* and *L. auratum*. These two bulbs were expensive to me then and cost all of \$1.50 each and had been shipped from Holland. They probably looked good to me at the time, but now I would certainly consider them to be in bad shape.

Into the ground they went, by the rose bushes in the front yard. They both struggled up in their weakened condition and bloomed and Bruno the Bear was very pleased. He promptly decided to cross the two sets of blooms. I do not have to tell you the results. They were crossed in late August when it was cool. The plants were weak. I couldn't have picked a pair of more unlikely lilies to try crossing.

A disappointed Bear looked at the shriveled pods and said, "Bruno, what did you do wrong?"

Next spring, the *L. henryi* came up strong and the weakened *L. auratum* came up late in 1961, but not at all in 1962. The irony of the whole situation was the fact that the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, which I had attended in the late 1940s had the world recognized hybridizer, Dr. Cecil E

(Continued on page 3)

## Lilium Pests - Part 1

### June Beetle

Patterson, on its faculty, in the Horticulture Department. Moreover, by 1962, I still had not heard of him. Fortunately, my next door neighbor was more fully informed than I. His name was Jim Hovell, a stationary engineer at the U of S Power House. In about July of 1963, he proudly pointed to his 'Apricot Glow' and asked me what I thought about it. I was fascinated by that gorgeous lily and pumped him daily for information and also about where I could get a bulb. Jim told me all about Dr. Patterson and his acres of lilies. In my mind, I still did not visualize that Dr. Patterson had acres of different colors and types of lilies. I only expected a few different orange ones in large clumps.

It wasn't until 1964, that I learned that the U. of S. was selling about 20 different lily cultivars. That very fall, I met Laura Patterson, the widow of Dr. Cecil Patterson. She kindly acquainted me with the many hundreds of different seedlings her husband had bred in his home garden in the evenings. Laura gave me good advice on the breeding of lilies, and supplied me with breeding stock at extremely reasonable prices, until she sold her home to the Oblate Fathers. Then, Friar M. Doll became a good friend and we spent many hours together over lilies. Also in the autumn of 1964, Dr. S. Nelson, who was head of the U of S. Horticulture Department advised me that Bert Porter of Parkside, Saskatchewan and Dr. Frank Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba, were two nurserymen growing lilies for sale. I wrote for a catalogue from each of them in the fall of 1964. I never looked back after that, so that by 1966, I had over 200 cultivars and several hundred of my own seedlings under trial. I also had about 50 different lilies from John Barber of Elfros, Saskatchewan.

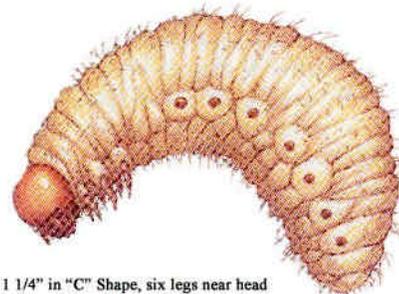
By 1967 and most years afterward, Bruno could be found in the lily patch, early in the morning, during noon hour, and in the evening up to dark from July to November. Of course being a Bear, I hibernated during the winter and dreamed of the summer and lilies.

Digging in your lily garden, you may unearth a large, white grub-like insect. This is the larva of the June beetle that is feeding upon the roots of the plants and sometimes cleans the roots right off to the basal plate.

*June beetles* belong to the family *Melolonthidae*. The June beetles are well known to most of us because in early summer they are attracted to lights at night. The common June beetle is light reddish-brown in color with the undersurface of the body covered with fine light-colored hairs.

The larva, commonly known as the white grub, feeds upon the roots of plants, and, at times, may do considerable damage to field crops and upon the leaves when in the adult stage. The female June beetle deposits her eggs in the soil. The larvae feed upon the roots of plants and, when they are full grown, which usually takes two years, they enter a pupa stage beneath the surface of the ground, in which stage they remain throughout the long winter months. With the return of warm weather in early summer the adult beetles emerge, males & females deposit their eggs and so the life cycle is completed.

Certain species of white grubs are particularly fond of grass roots and it is not an uncommon experience to find acres of grassland completely destroyed due to the attack of these fat, white larvae.



1 - 1 1/4" in "C" Shape, six legs near head

## **Novice Niche**

### **Growing Lilies From Seed**

There are as many different methods of growing lilies from seed as there are types of lilies available. Here are some of the ways and methods:

Usually ripe clean seed is used. By clean seed we mean seed that has been cleaned and has had the "chaff" removed. It is possible to tell if the seed is viable. Hold the seed up to the light or place on a piece of glass with a bright light source under it. You should be able to see the growing point of the seed.

#### **Now, where to grow the seed.**

Lily seed will grow irrespective of where it is sown, but for beginners, we recommend to grow the seed in a pot. A margarine pot will do fine. Make two or three holes in the bottom, extending to about 1 cm up the side of the pot for drainage, then using sharp sand, mix 50/50 with compost or seed raising mix. Fill the pot to about three quarters full with this mix, then place the seed on top of this. Using a fine sieve, sieve some compost over the seed to about 5 mm. Place the container in water for 1 or two hours or until the water is taken up by the mix. Take the container out and let it drain. The seed should sprout in two to three weeks if it is kept damp but not wet. Leave the seedlings for a year in the container, again ensuring they do not dry out or are too wet, and after one year, transplant into the garden or individual pots.

#### **Growing Seeds in the Open Garden.**

Prepare a fine bed of soil, once again drainage is very important, so I recommend that some sharp sand be placed into the bottom of the drill, then place the seed on top of this bed, cover with 5mm of fine soil or compost. These seedlings should also be left where they are for at least 12 months.

#### **Some Variations of Growing Medium.**

As already mentioned, sharp sand is the cheapest and easiest to obtain.

Vermiculite (Granulated mica) - This is light in weight, easy to handle, and holds large quantities of

water without becoming waterlogged. It is free from weed seeds and the fungi that causes "Dampening off". Nutriments have to be added.

Perlite - A grayish material of organic origin, mined from lava flows. It is very light in weight and is also sterile, but tends to float off when watered. It is easy to over water and very hard to dry out because of its fineness. Nutriments have to be added.

Sphagnum moss - A natural material found in bogs, mostly on the West Coast. It is relatively sterile, light in weight and has a high water holding capacity. It is mostly used by placing seed on compost first, then covering the seed with sphagnum moss to a depth of approximately 10 mm.

Pumice - Pumice is organic in origin and is sometimes difficult to obtain, but it has very good moisture retaining properties, is sterile and would need nutrients added.

Sawdust - is easy to obtain, is cheap and has some good advantages. The most important thing to remember about this medium, is that it should not be from any treated timber. Also sawdust tends to retain moisture and should be kept relatively dry. It would be better used with some other medium such as compost, peat or seed mixture.

It would be a good idea to try some of these mediums on their own or as a mixture, but do be careful when watering as some of these are so light, that they tend to float when watered from above.

When to plant our seed; As a general rule you will receive your seed about February or March. Most people would advocate sowing the seed as soon as possible after receiving it for two reasons:

- (a) The older the seed the less viable it becomes.
- (b) Spring is nature's growing period and April/ May is when new growth will be at its best.

Green seed that is, seed straight from the pod. This works quite well with some types of lilies and is worth while experimenting with.

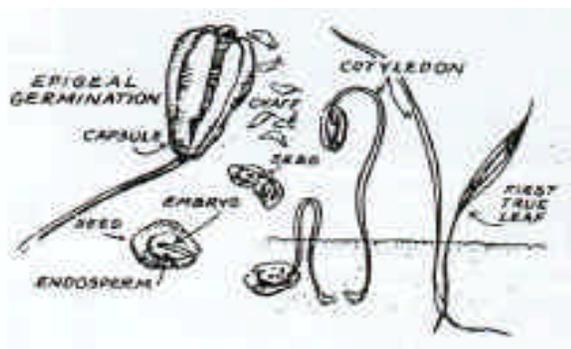
One Member sometimes uses tweezers to place his

seed no more than 1" deep in the medium (about 5 seeds to a 6 inch pot), with the tip pointing down. It would be interesting to know whether seed planted this way germinates any sooner.

With the right conditions, lily seed isn't really hard to grow. One of our members when weeding one spring, discovered a thick, bunch of what she thought was new grass growing between the garden and the concrete path. It turned out to be a trumpet lily pod which had lain there all winter and from which every seed seemed to have germinated. Many self sown lilies have probably disappeared in spring weeding sessions, or have made a great meal for slugs and snails.

A trap that the beginner could fall into is that there are two types of seeds of lilies;

The first being quick type, "Epigeal" (Epi meaning on or above, and Ge, earth). This type of seed will germinate, send up a leaf, and form a bulb under the surface. Some examples are Asiatic hybrids and Trumpet hybrids and their species, *L. pumilum*, *L. davidii*, *L. henryi* and *L. longiflorum*.

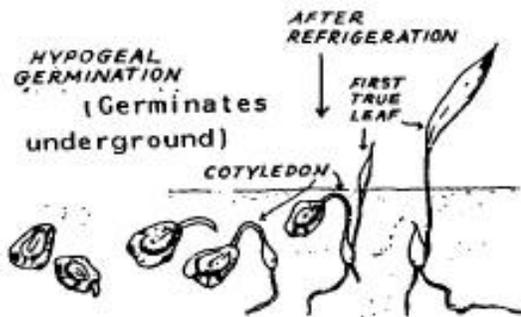


How to start the Epigeal or quick-germinating types indoors

1. Purchase some soilless seedling mix
2. Moisten mix until it feels damp
3. Place in growing container
4. Plant seeds and sprinkle mix on top
5. Cover with plastic cover and keep around 20 C
6. Check in about 14 days for germination

The second, slow type, is known as "Hypogeal" (Hypo meaning under, and Ge, earth), and has a two stage germination process, a warm period and a cold period.

This type still forms a bulb under the surface but may not send up a leaf for several months or a year, so do not throw your pots away for at least a year. Examples are martagons and martagon hybrids and Western American species and their hybrids.



Keep a diary of your seed sowing, e.g. sowing, first leaf etc. and if your seed is from the seed pool, record the number as well as the name. Don't forget to label your seed sowings.

We would like you to write and tell us about any of your lily growing experiences or problems, and what seed sowing medium you found most successful. Good luck!

NEW LILY LIBRARY BOOKS AVAILABLE:		
Name	Author	Date
<b>A Guide to Choosing and Growing Lilies.</b>	Michael Jefferson Brown	2003
<b>Lilies their Cultivation and Management</b>	Drysdale, Woodcock and Coutts	1936
<b>Garden Lilies</b>	M.E. Leeburn	1963
<b>Lilies for English Gardens</b>	Gertrude Jekyll	1901 Reprint -1994

## NALS Research Fund

The Research Committee was transformed into The Research Trust Fund, a major NALS endeavor, in the early 1990's. Over \$43,000 in funds were donated by 16 regionals as a response to a major fund raising appeal. In many cases, a number of donations were given over several years (Table 1) and some regionals continue to give an annual donation. Most of the remaining funds came from interest and from our annual research auction, as well as an initial NALS gift. In the last 10 years, our interest income of \$68,000 and other income of \$46,000 has translated into research grants of \$65,000 (rounded values). These grants have covered a wide range of issues from native species, cytogenetics through to the introduced lily beetle (\$34,000 over 5 years).

Manitoba Regional Lily Society support will continue to assist NALS to gain prominence as a society dedicated to research and growing lilies. Your support in the past has made the RTF a strong force. Specifically, NALS can make more grants and leverage more lily research with your support. Together we will see more new disease resistant lilies, insect and disease control and a resurgence in native species habitat.

NALS Affiliate	Donation
Alberta	674.60 (2)
Canadian Prairie	1254.2 (2)
Golden State	400.00 (2)
Iowa	500.00 (2)
Manitoba	9430.10 (10)
Michigan	3500.00 (6)
Mid-American	1100.00 (7)
Middle Atlantic	5000.00 (1)
New England	1200.00 (2)
North Star	10500.00 (4)
Ohio	1000.00 (1)
Ontario	4808.10 (6)
Ozark	1350.00 (3)
Potomac	1000.00 (3)
Wisconsin	500.00 (2)
Wisconsin-Illinois	1000.00 (1)

## Special Invitation to NALS 57th Show

The members of the Mid America Regional Lily Society would like to invite you to the **57th Annual International Lily Show of the North American Lily Society.**

The show will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel on June 23rd – 27th, 2004. The hotel is conveniently located adjacent to St. Louis Lambert International Airport and Interstate 70.

For people who will be coming with their spouse but not attending the show there are many things to do. There is a 24-hour complimentary shuttle service to and from the Airport and Metrolink rail station. Metrolink rail station runs from the airport to downtown St. Louis.

In 2004 St. Louis is celebrating the centennial of the 1904 World's Fair and the bi-centennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Many of these activities will take place at the newly remodeled Forest Park. Among the many attractions of Forest Park are the Jewel Box Conservatory, the St. Louis Art Museum and the St. Louis Zoo.

We will also have a tour of the Missouri Botanical Garden. This Garden covers 79 acres and includes special features and collections. There are many gardens including: Kiefer Magnolia Walk, Zimmerman Scented Garden, Gladney Rose Garden and the Jenkins Daylily Garden. Come and see the Linnean House built in 1882, the Climatron Conservatory which houses a tropical rain forest and the Spink Pavilion built in 1920 on the site of the original 1858 entrance to the Garden.

I am sure every garden lover will find something to enjoy at the Missouri Botanical Garden. For those who wish to ride there is a narrated tram which circles the grounds. But be sure to see the Heckman and Samuels Bulb Garden. There are quite a few of the new lilies living here along with other plants that grow from bulbs. I saw it last summer and was impressed with the vigor and variety of plants.

If you have any questions, you may contact me or refer to the brochure that will be in the NALS March 2004 QB. There will also be information at the NALS web site, which is [www.lilies.org](http://www.lilies.org). I am also including a list of the St. Louis area web sites that you may wish to explore.

Sincerely,  
 Maureen Janson  
 MARLS Publicity  
 Homebase43@hotmail.com

**MANITOBA REGIONAL LILY SOCIETY  
SPRING SEMINAR AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004  
Saturday March 20th, 2004  
Brandon, MB**

**Royal Oak Inn - 3130 Victoria Ave. - 204-728-5775**

**If you wish to stay over, Book early at hotel as rooms fill fast  
Registration - \$25.00 - Includes coffee breaks and lunch and 3 sessions**

- |              |  |                               |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>8:30</b>  | <b>- Registration / Coffee / Socializing</b>             |                               |
| <b>9:00</b>  | <b>- Welcome by President -</b>                          | <b><i>Ted Sobkowich</i></b>   |
| <b>9:10</b>  | <b>- Breeding Biology in the Genus Lilium -</b>          | <b><i>Dr. Bill Paton</i></b>  |
| <b>10:30</b> | <b>- Coffee Break &amp; Socializing</b>                  |                               |
| <b>11:00</b> | <b>- NALS 2005 Presentation -</b>                        | <b><i>John Rempel</i></b>     |
| <b>11:30</b> | <b>- Socializing, Lunch and Spring Bulb Sale</b>         |                               |
| <b>1:30</b>  | <b>- MRLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>                     |                               |
| <b>2:00</b>  | <b>- Seed Starting Techniques -</b>                      | <b><i>Barrie Strohman</i></b> |
| <b>2:30</b>  | <b>- Floral Design: Using Lilies as the Main Bloom -</b> | <b><i>Susan LeBlanc</i></b>   |
| <b>3:15</b>  | <b>- Coffee Break &amp; Socializing</b>                  |                               |
| <b>4:00</b>  | <b>- Closing</b>   |                               |

**There will be a raffle draw for many wonderful items including, gift certificates, hard to find bulbs, framed prints of lilies, unframed prints of lilies....**

**See registration form below, please pre-register by March 15th**

**MRLS Seminar Registration Form**

**Please pre-register by March 15th**

**Registration - \$25.00 ea. - Includes coffee breaks and noon meal.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ph:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Prov** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send To: MRLS c/o Marlene Puls - 99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2X6  
Make Cheques Payable to MRLS**

## Coming Events & Notices:

### Manitoba Regional Lily Society 2004 Spring Seminar

Date: Saturday, March 20th, 2004  
Place: Brandon, MB

### NALS 57th Annual Show

Date: June 23rd - 27th, 2004  
Place: Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel,  
St. Louis, MO

### MRLS Lily Show

Date: July 16th - 18th, 2004  
Place: Neepawa, MB (To be held in conjunction  
with Neepawa Lily Festival)

### N.A.L.S. 58th Lily Show 'Northern Horizons'

Hosted by Manitoba Regional Lily Society  
July 2005 Winnipeg, MB

**We need YOU!!** If you are interested in volunteering and helping out contact John Rempel at 204-895-2212  
E-mail: jrempel@mb.sympatico.ca

We welcome you to host a NALS Garden Tour in 2005. If you feel you would like to open up your gardens for our visitors to view, please contact Barbara Jean Jackson (B.J.) at 204-725-4696  
E-mail: jacksonb@mb.sympatico.ca

### NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

If you wish to receive your future newsletters by e-mail, sign up by e-mailing the Newsletter editor, nigel@lilynook.mb.ca  
Your newsletter will be sent to you in Adobe .PDF format.

### LIBRARY NOTICE:

To all who have Library Books out, please remember to bring them to the MRLS Spring Seminar or ship them ASAP to Barrie Strohman. The library will be at the Spring Seminar for your access.

### THE TIME HAS COME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

This could be your last newsletter!!

(Membership expiry date can be found on the Address label after surname) i.e. Dec 03

#### M.R.L.S. Membership Renewal Form - Deadline

\$7.50 Year — Single Membership

\$10.00 Year — Family/Society Membership

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO: MARLENE PULS  
99 MACALESTER BAY, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2X6  
Make Cheques Payable to MRLS