



Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter

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Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

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President's Message

Hello everyone. In response to the snow on the ground here in Winnipeg, welcome to winter. We have around 3 inches (7-8 cm) of snow in our yard, a good beginning to insulate the various perennials, including bulbs. Lilies are likely our most common bulb but there are others that can be grown to provide an early appearance of bloom and colour. One of these is *Crocus tommasianus*, a light pink colour appearing in early April. Other early bloomers include *Iris reticulata* (purple), *Iris bucharica* (yellow), the *Scilla sibericas* (blue and white) and *Puschkinia libanotica* (white with blue stripes) the latter named after the Russian poet Alexander Sergejewitsch Puschkin.

Hopefully everyone has planted their newly acquire bulbs, regretfully I did not thus will have to store them in a cool fridge at about four degrees Celsius according to Wilbert Ronald.

In the last newsletter there was mention of some of my goals in lily breeding namely extending the blooming period. These goals keep changing as conditions change and one of these is the lily beetle with which some of you may be familiar. If we can find some effective and durable resistance to this pest we then can start trying to transfer this resistance into different division backgrounds by straight crosses or partial backcrosses. One species lily (*lilium amabile*) appears to have some resistance

but may or may not be effective in new crosses, time will tell.

Ed Czarnecki



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Manitoba Regional Lily Society 2015 Bulb Sale Report

Brandon/Winnipeg

Deborah Petrie

There was a great selection of all types of lilies on hand for the 2015 bulb sales. While the numbers of bulbs purchased for the sale were less, sales were up! As expected sales were brisk on the heritage and historic asiatic and martagon bulbs on offer. A dedicated group of perpetual volunteers and a few newcomers were on hand to assist with both the Winnipeg and Brandon sales and we thank them all. This year we had the added bonus of a donation back to the society of bulbs from the display garden at the University of Brandon as well as a few member donations for a total of a whopping 143 donated bulbs. All of which were sold. In fact of the close to 1000 bulbs available for purchase only 41 remained unsold, as near to a complete sell out as you can get. If you would like to donate bulbs to future sales, just let us know.

Contact Deborah Petrie, Bulb Sale Chair at petrie@mymts.net with a list what you have and how many. A little or a lot, the MRLS is always grateful to our members for their bulb donations.

The MRLS also received donated bulbs from the gardens of the late Diann Putland and the late Dr. Reginald Gallop. For further information on these two donations see page 3.

There were also a few changes in how we provided the mail-order component of our sales. The introduction of a website with the full list of bulbs and photos of them all was available to all our members and the public. Mail-order sales were up slightly as a result. We will be looking at further changes to enhance mail-order in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members who so generously volunteered their time and energy and or donated bulbs, for helping to make the 2015 Fall Bulb Sales a huge success.

Dauphin

BJ Jackson

The 15th annual edition of the Dauphin bulb sale at the Marketplace Mall on October 10th surpassed our expectations again this year and was a resounding success. So much so that at the end of the day, we had fewer than 50 bulbs left! The weather was fine and the people came. No planting in snow and cold this year! The winner of our anniversary bulb draw was Shelley McCallum Kuzuchar of Dauphin. A big thank you once again to Louise Fiel and our dedicated crew of volunteers that helped out throughout the day. We could NOT do it without you.

A Generous Donation of Bulbs

We are all aware, that MRLS lost two important members recently. Dr. Reg Gallop and Diann Putland were both hybridizers of note and had left quite a collection of their seedlings. Family members of both, Pat Gallop, Roslyn Putland Bourak and Ross Putland, contacted Ted Sobkowich and enquired if the MRLS would be interested in the donation of these lilies and lily seedlings. It would have been unfortunate had the properties been sold and the new owners, not knowing the value of the lilies, had tilled them and grassed over the areas. It isn't really about a dollar value, but years of dedication in hybridizing and a love of lilies. Some of the seedlings have an excellent heritage which could possibly bring a few exciting new introductions. Some of Diann's seedlings were also shared with others in Saskatchewan.

In late September, Len Giesbrecht, Ed and Thelma Czarnecki, Valerie Denesiuk, and Ted Sobkowich spent a few hours at Dr. Reg's home digging his seedlings. If you ever attended the MRLS Fall Bulb Sale, you probably met Dr. Reg. He was a fixture at our fall sales, promoting martagons, sharing his martagon knowledge, showing his seedling pictures and sharing his Delphinium seeds.

In about mid September, Ted Sobkowich and Len Giesbrecht traveled to Diann's new home in Churchbridge, Saskatchewan and spent a day digging her seedlings along with many named varieties. There were more than expected. Ted and Susan LeBlanc returned the following week to dig the remainder. Diann won many awards for her lily stem and flower arrangement entries, at various lily shows in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and was doing a lot of work with pink and red asiatic crosses. It will be interesting to see what develops from these.

Brenda Newton, an MRLS board member from the Brandon area, made us a generous offer of space in her growing fields, to plant out the remaining Dr. Reg seedlings and the bulbs from Diann's home. Deborah Petrie, BJ Jackson, Brenda Newton and myself spent 3½ hours planting the estimated 400 -500 bulbs, on a cold and rainy Sunday afternoon in late September.

Some of the Dr. Reg's martagon bulbs were sold at the fall bulb sales to members only. If you were fortunate enough to get some, try to keep an eye on them. You could have a pleasant surprise. Dr. Reg had some he had marked "a clear red" or "deep red" and they or any of the others could very well be worth introducing. Please share pictures and comments on any that you think are noteworthy with the MRLS newsletter editor Deborah Petrie at petrie@mymts.net.

In the future once the seedlings have bloomed and been evaluated, some of these bulbs may be available for purchase at our fall bulb sales.

The MRLS will be scheduling weeding days at the growing fields a few times next year. If anyone wants to help, please contact Len Giesbrecht at lengiesb@hotmail.com. There will be carpooling available. It will be a fun outing, a nice companionable drive, great garden therapy, and you get to see firsthand what amazing seedlings are blooming that day. Lunch will be provided. Dates and other information will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

MRLS would like to thank the Gallop and Putland families for sharing these potential treasures with us. We will remember Reg and Diann.

Len Giesbrecht
Ted Sobkowich



2016 Events

Gardening Saturday

Date: March 19

Location: Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue
Winnipeg, MB

MRLS Spring Seminar and AGM

Date: April 2,

Location: Headingly Community Centre
5353 Portage Avenue
Headingly, MB

NALS Show and Convention

Date: July 6 to July 10

Location: Chicago, Illinois

MRLS Lily Show

Date: July 16

Location: St Vital Centre
Winnipeg, MB

Lily Daze Show

Dates: July 22 to July 23

Location: Lily Nook
Neepawa, MB

Fall Bulb Sales

Tentative Dates

Winnipeg - September 24

Brandon - October 1

Dauphin - October 8

GROWING MARTAGON LILIES

Dr. Ieuan Rhys Evans

Martagon lilies can take up to 8 years to flower from seed and many more years to multiply. Once martagons are established in your garden they will grow forever. Martagons do best in cold to very cold climates from the Central U. S. states to Northern Canada. They are fully zone 2 hardy.

MARTAGON GROWING GUIDELINES

1. **SOIL** – Martagon lilies hate wet feet. Raised or well-drained soil or sloped grounds is suitable.
2. **WHERE** – Martagons grow well in full sun, half sun or even shade. They do exceptionally well under light tree or shrub cover or alongside buildings or fences. In full sun they need mulching or annual or perennial ground cover around them to keep the soil cool in summer. In full shade the trees must be deciduous so that winter rains and snow replenish the soil moisture so that its available in spring for the very early emerging martagons just as it is for daffodils. Evergreens such as spruce and pine drain the soil of water during the winter months depriving the martagons of this much needed spring moisture.
3. **SOIL TYPE** – Martagons appreciate leafy humus or peat moss. Mix the peat or compost up to a 50/50 mix in sandy or clay soils and dig down to a depth of 12 – 18 inches (30 – 45 cms) because they will be there for a very long time.
4. **PLANT ASAP** – As soon as you purchase your lilies plant right away in summer or fall so that they can form new roots immediately just as for daffodils and tulips. Ensure that the soil is moist to give them the best possible start.
5. **PLANTING DEPTH** – Martagon lilies like 3 – 6 inches (7 – 15 cms) coverage depending on bulb size, deeper for bigger bulbs. This is essential since the best lily feeding roots grow out of the stem above the bulb. The bulb roots are for soil anchorage and some feeding the stem roots above the bulb are for feeding and supporting the stem which can be up to 8 feet (2 – 4 metres) tall.
6. **SPACE** – Plant the bulbs about 6 inches (15 cms) apart to allow for bulb multiplication and plant if possible in groups of 3 – 5 for display. Unlike most other lilies, particularly Asiatic which must be replanted every few years. Martagons can be left for 10 – 15 years or more or until the bulb clumps are pushed to the surface by sheer numbers.
7. **FERTILIZER** – Water the bulbs immediately on first planting with warm water if possible. Soak the surrounding soil very well to enable rapid re-rooting in the well-drained area. Fertilize in the second year of growing with a general fertilizer such as the granular 10-10-10 or soluble 20-20-20 both of which should contain trace levels of micronutrients especially important on sandy soils. Using 20-20-20 for example you would use a level teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water per 5 – 10 feet (1.5 – 3 meters) of row 3 – 6 inches (7 – 15 cms) away from the base of the stem. For organic users a tablespoon of wet well soaked alfalfa pellets per bulb mixed into the soil. Rabbits eat the dry ones.
8. **STAKE AND LABEL NEW MARTAGONS** – Create a plan of where you put the bulbs and list the names of each variety. Lost tags are common. Martagons may not come up the first year after planting or come up and die back quickly or flower fairly normally.
9. **MULCH** – Compost or peat moss keeps the weeds down in summer and lily roots and bulbs cool. Moisture stays longer under mulch. Water martagons during dry weather from June to August.
10. **SEED** – If you do not intend to harvest martagon seed then remove the spent flower heads only ASAP. This allows the lower stem and leaves to produce nutrients for the bulbs making them bigger for the next year.
11. **PESTS** – Pocket gophers, moles, mice and voles do not eat martagon bulbs. Though moles may sometimes eat only the roots of martagon bulbs.
12. **FLOWERING** – Some vigorously growing martagons may not emerge for one or even two years. We do not know the causes but if you are curious you can very carefully remove the soil above the non-emerged bulbs and find one or more healthy bulbs skipping the current year.
13. **MULTIPLICATION** – Martagons depending on variety, may multiply rapidly or slowly.
14. **TRANSPLANTING** – Martagons can be transplanted anytime that you can dig into the soil from dormancy through emergence into flowering. The best time is August to September in Northerly areas and August to October if you grow them further south.
15. **PERSISTENCE** – “MARTAGONS ARE FOREVER”. If martagons like their growing sites they will persist through weeds, woodlots and drought. They can endure total neglect once established. A sight to behold each spring, towering, gilded long lasting flower heads in a kaleidoscope of colour heralding the onset of summer.

MARTAGONS a comprehensive book by Eugene Fox for detailed information.

Lily Culture Question

I am thinking of planting martagons 5-7 per 3 gal pot size and bury them up to the rim then put weed barrier all around the pots.

Question:

Does anyone have experience in planting lilies in nursery containers sunk into the ground for over wintering results?

Answers;

1. I've done it a number of times. I put them into the ground once the ground has frozen, which means that I've dug the holes when the ground was workable, and then plunged the pots (with the mart bulbs inside) and used soil that I saved in the garage so that it doesn't freeze, and mound it up over the pots. I haven't used weed barrier, though, as the pots come up before the weeds get a chance to get going.
2. I have done this many times. All have survived to either be replanted elsewhere in the spring or go into bigger pots and back in the same place. Some have been there for 4 years now. I don't use weed barrier and I have never planted more than two bulbs per 1 gallon pot. The area I use is an old compost pile under a maple tree. They seem to like it there.
3. In a 3 gallon pot I would plant only 5 bulbs not 7.

**IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN!
TIME TO RENEW YOUR MRLS MEMBERSHIP FOR
2016 AND BEYOND.**

MRLS Membership Renewal Form
Single: \$10.00 per year or 3 years for \$25.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ PROVINCE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

Check box for e-mail delivery E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Mail completed form to: Marlene Puls, 99 Macalester Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2X6