



# Manitoba Lily Connection

Manitoba Regional Lily Society Newsletter  
www.manitobalilies.ca

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Affiliated with the North American Lily Society

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## President's Message

November 26 /01

Only one week left of this normally cold and snowy month of November and still no snow. Usually large flocks of geese have come and gone through our area. Most gardens have been trimmed cleaned and decorated for the upcoming holidays.

I have had the good fortune to receive bulbs from friend such as Lillian Luky, Reg Gallop, John Rempel, Jim Russell, Barrie Strohman and Becky Stewart, to name a few. These bulbs were plump and are ready to rest. Meanwhile inside, in the drawers of an old dresser, new life abounds. My bagged martagon seeds have grown the most perfectly formed little bulbs. Where will they be planted come Spring is a thought for another day.

We had an enormously successful bulb sale this Fall. Thank you for all the participation and hard work. It would be wonderful to share these bulbs again as stems in next upcoming various shows. I must find my copy of 'Showing Lilies', as I have challenged myself to participate in Wilbert and Barrie's school for judges to be held in Brandon this February.

Finally, my wish for you is good health and Happiness throughout the holidays and into the New Year!

Susan

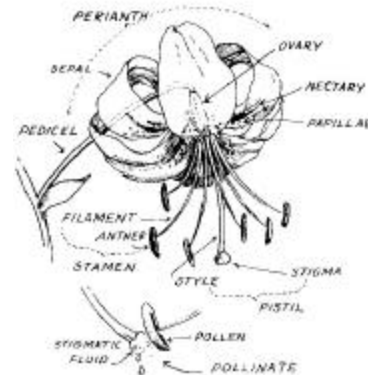
### Lily Questions?

If you have a question or thought on lilies just contact us, 'the editors' and we will publish it on a question and answer spot in the newsletters.

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

E-mail: [nstrohman@escape.ca](mailto:nstrohman@escape.ca) or Phone: 476-5908

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



### Inside:

Lily Breeding: Ed Robinson- Page 2 & 3

The Novice's Niche - Page 4

Bulb Sales Report - Page 5

Coming Events/ Notices- Page 6

## Lily Breeding:

### Adventures Of A Prairie Lily Breeder - Part 2

by the Late Ed Robinson of Wawanesa, Manitoba

There were many definite colors and many bi-colors with as many as three colors in the same flower. However, the highlights were two pure whites, one proved unworthy of a name because the scales will not produce bulblets and the seed is sterile. It is still the same single bulb started seven years ago. It has a good spike of waxy white flowers. The white sister seedling named 'Snow Bunting' is just the opposite; easily grown from seed and scales readily, with good natural increase. The others named were:

#### 1965

**Ivory Snow** - comes out palest primrose, changes to ivory and finally to near white.

**Royal Robes** - deep purple red, large flowers.

**Snow Bunting** - white with lilac spots, and white buds have a pink base.

#### 1966

**Ivory Supreme** - ivory with straw yellow center, large flat flowers.

**Prairie Fragrance** - light fawn with green and one of the few lilies of this class that are spicy scented.

**Prairie Fawn** - straw fawn with green, facing out, good spike.

**Lavish Lady** - one color, light mauve, few spots, shiny flat flowers.

**Summer Pageant** - lilac mauve with lighter center, as flowers fade they face up, color of L. cernuum when first open.

**Summer Gem** - large pale lavender, with straw center and triangular shaped flowers, red flecks on petals.

#### 1967

**Prairie Sunset** - lavender straw with straw yellow face and darker lavender tips on tall good spikes and stems.

These and others in this lot have been diligently hand pollinated to see what the second generation will produce. Further remarks on my lily breeding work from 1968 to 1975 seems to be of interest and for the records. Some of my new hybrids will be grown for years to come, while others will be dropped for various reasons, which is true of all new varieties of plants. No matter how they are studied and tested by the originator, some will not pan out in many different locations.

Eight more seedlings were named in 1968 from the cross of 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow'.

**Coral Seas** - 'Edith Cecilia' x Preston Hybrid - a straw

coral.

**Garnet Light** - 'Edith Cecilia' x Preston Hybrid - blood red on a low stiff stem.

**Ivy Helen** - 'Radiant Glow' x 'Edith Cecilia', an improved version of 'Edith Cecilia'.

**Lunar Look** - Preston Hybrid x 'Edith Cecilia' - a true pink color all over.

**Pink Shell** - Preston Hybrid x 'Edith Cecilia' - a true pink color all over.

**Prairie Treasurer** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - odd yellow color with heavy black spots.

**Royal Beauty** - Preston Hybrid x 'Edith Cecilia' - a large pale lavender bloom, with a large pale yellow center.

**Ribbon Bows** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - bow like bloom of purple fuchsia.

#### 1969'

**Russel Leslie** - 'Edith Cecilia' x Preston Hybrid - cream with a pale orange frosted center.

**Ivory Sands** - Preston x 'Edith Cecilia' - fawn, fuchsia green line on front of tepals.

**Lunar Landing** - Preston x 'Edith Cecilia' - a pale primrose yellow.

**Manitoba Centennial** - Preston x 'Edith Cecilia' - a pink straw, with a lilac line on front of tepals.

**Pink Watchea** - Preston x 'Edith Cecilia' - pink lavender straw color.

**Prairie Sands** - Preston x 'Edith Cecilia' - a straw sand color with lilac on front of tepals.

#### 1970

**Lightface** - 'Radiant Glow' x 'Edith Cecilia' - fuchsia red, large straw face.

**Pink Skyline** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - a pink straw color.

**Pink Triangle** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - pale pink mauve. A triangular shaped bloom.

**Radiant Pink** - 'Radiant Glow' x 'Edith Cecilia' - a bright pink front and back of the tepals.

**Copper Gold** - 'Radiant Glow' x 'Edith Cecilia' - a bright yellow with a reddish center and reddish backs.

**Rosylight** - 'Radiant Glow' x 'Edith Cecilia' - red fushia, straw center, clump forming.

Seven more were named during 1971 and 1972

**Lilac Chiffon** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - a lavender pink straw with a frosted center.

**Burgandy Rose** - Preston x 'Edith Cecilia' - rose red, pale straw center, with ruffled tepals.

**Cream Orchid** - 'Radiant Glow' x 'Edith Cecilia' - cream, pale straw center, short.

**Sulphur Gem** - 'Enchantment' x 'Mega' - a spotless sulphur

yellow lily.

**Summer Tan** - 'Typhoon' x 'Apricot Glow' - an upfacing bronze tan with large six inch flowers.

**Dessert Rose** - 'Black Cloud' x 'Edith Cecilia' - huge pinkish orange flowers with frosted centers.

**Tourmaline Red** - 'Black Cloud' x 'Radiant Glow' - light red, flat six inch flowers.

#### 1973

**Harvest Moon** - 'Palomino' x 'Apricot Glow' - upfacing cream, spotless.

**Summer Moon** - 'Palomino' x 'Apricot Glow' - a spotless greenish cream flower.

**Panned Gold** - Preston Hybrid x 'Apricot Glow' - yellow faces with frosted centers, red mottled backs.

#### 1974

**New Snow** - 'Snow Bunting' x Snow Bunting seedling - a very white lily with furry buds.

**Snow Brite** - 'Snow Bunting' x 'Snow Bunting' seedling - a pure white lily, with flat out-facing blooms.

**Rosy Amber** - 'Radiant Glow' x 'Edith Cecilia' - rose bronze blooms with frosted blooms.

**Pink Floss** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - a straw face with pink tips, the backs are all pink.

**Pink Lady** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - all one solid deep mauve pink color.

**Purple Robes** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - purple fuchsia with a lighter center.

**Prairie Harvest** - 'Edith Cecilia' x 'Radiant Glow' - a straw cream with a deeper colored center.

From the foregoing list of lilies which have been named, there are perhaps a dozen or more which are just as outstanding as these are which I have chosen not to name because while they are outstanding in one garden, they seem to be only fair in someone else's garden.

Some, which have only been fair to good in my own plots, I have sent out and they are reported to be outstanding in the gardens of my customers. Even two bulbs of the same cultivar planted in separate places in the same garden can behave very differently. Normally good clean, disease-free bulbs will put on a good show the second or third year after they are planted. Then if they are not well cared for and divided, the blooms are fewer each year until a new crop of bulblets take over and come into bloom once again. I have had this happen when all of the mature bulbs have rotted away.

What is the future for lily breeding? New colors, new forms, and disease resistance, just to name a few of the objectives.

Many of the lilies are seed sterile and as one

progresses with them, their hybrids produce less and less viable seed in each succeeding generation. In most cases, this is perhaps a good thing for the plant breeder, as he is not taking up time growing a host of useless seedlings, as the few seeds that do grow are more liable to be worthy of the time spent on them.

As for disease, the best cure I find is to move some of the bulbs every third year before any bulb disease has a chance to get a start.

The tops of old bulbs appear to suffer botrytis worse because of high humidity from above, as it is not there one day and devastating the next day; so it seems to come from the sky, while actually it is the condition for the rapid spread of the disease.

Lilies, which are planted under trees, seem to live much longer before they suffer from botrytis contact than those lilies, which were planted in open spaces.

I do not spray for this disease as I want to weed out those seedlings, which are susceptible to botrytis. None of the lilies are completely immune to it, but many are resistant; while some, like 'Dunkirk' and its seedlings are very susceptible.

At a time when the end of lily breeding was in sight with just improvements on existing cultivars being done, a breeder comes out with a whole new series of spotless Tiger Hybrids which are going to be here for a long time to come as they have the vigor and resistance to disease which will be valuable for crossing into others of less resistance. This is the same break I had in crossing the martagon hybrid of 'Dalhansoni' with the Chinese species lily *L. tsingtauense*, which gave larger flowers and stems and increased the martagons vigor and their resistance to disease. Another beneficial trait is that these hybrids are also easier to transplant than their martagon parent, and they also produce some viable seed in every pod. A full array of colors should be available in the years to come.

The species lilies are a challenge for the future but do not expect to get too much reward for your work. I have grown a few hybrids from *L. amabile* seed and *L. cernuum* has given nothing as a seed parent and I doubt that there is anything from its pollen; but let itself pollinate and it produces seed like it was crazy. *L. duchartrei* and *L. lankongense* are the same way and resist other lilies' pollen.

Another lily breeding project that should receive a lot of attention in the future is trumpet lilies for the cooler parts of North America. Many are growing a few trumpets and they appear to be hardy, but are they? I have a number of seedlings, which I have had for ten years or more and which have had more or less snow cover every winter. They do not increase as they should and I suspect that it is

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## Want More of the Same? - Part 2

By: Doreen Sage

The last article was on increasing your supply of a lily by bulbils, little bulbs, bulblets and how to do it.

There is one other method for increasing the supply of a bulb — scaling.

For the novice lily grower, this might sound a little intimidating, but it would be a good experience to try.

This method can be used when the parent does not have bulbils (not all do) and/or does not produce many or any little bulbs underground or on stems.

The following suggestions on how to do 'scaling' apply only to non-commercial growers. (Commercial growers have equipment, space and want really large quantities).

Scaling involves digging up the desired bulb or using one you have just bought. It must be emphasized that only healthy, disease-free bulbs be used.

The bulb selected for scaling should be the largest you have. Wash off any soil that is on the bulb.

The scales must be broken off cleanly right at the basal plate (see diagram). Remove by going around the bulb.

If scales are to be planted outside, take very soon after blooming. This will give them time to grow bulblets before frost. The soil must be kept evenly moist - but not wet. Plant the scales in a well marked row as soon as possible after taking them.

Scales should be dipped into a suitable fungicide before planting.

If you want to plant scales indoors, a different time frame is required. Scales are removed and packed thinly in layers in a moist medium (sphagnum moss or vermiculite), completely covered.

Incubate at 15°C - 20°C (60°F - 70°F) until bulblets and roots form (6 - 8 weeks). Trumpet species and hybrids take 8 - 10 weeks and Orientals and hybrids take 12 -14 weeks.

After incubation, a cold period is required (not for Trumpets) of 4°C - 10°C (40°F - 50°F) for 3 - 4 weeks then into cold storage (1°C/34°F). This cold storage is called vernalization. Asiaticas require at least 6 weeks and Orientals 12 - 14 weeks. Longer is not harmful.

These bulblets are now ready to transplant outside once soil and temperature condition are above freezing. Plant in well marked rows where they may remain for a couple of years. Some may flower the first year.

Try both methods. Remember, you only remove a few scales from a bulb and then replant the bulb. It will continue to grow and flourish and your scales will give



you more of the same.

Lily propagation. A: Scaling of concentric bulb, with scales broken off at the basal plate, a: newly planted scale, b: scale with roots and bulblets after six to eight

## Question & Answer

**Q:** I have collected seed pods from my lily. What should I do with it now?

**A:** Take the seed pod and break it apart, to take out the seeds. You can get up to 300 seeds from it, or you may get some seed and some chaff. Separate the seeds from the chaff, and store seeds in a paper envelope in a cool place until you are ready to plant indoors in February or March. Look for how to start seed in the next newsletter.

## BULB SALE REPORT

October 22, 2001

Winnipeg: September 29th and 30th, 2001, Conservatory, Assiniboine Park.

Brandon: September 29th, 2001, Town Center

Dauphin: October 6th, 2001, Town Mall

Overall the selection of bulbs was excellent, as many varieties were not available for awhile. This, along with more advertising, lead to good overall sales.

Bulbs where purchased from: Lily Nook, Jeffries Nurseries, Lily Fields, Hillcrest Harmony Flowers, Valley K Nursery, Alex Burnett, Fred Fellner, Dick Bazett and Fragrant Flora. Very little product was returned or has to be stored over for the Spring Seminar. The Valley K bulbs did not come in until after the sales dates due to shipping problems related to the Sept 11th tragedy. The Valley K bulbs, remainder of stock which could not be returned plus the 10 'Regal Star', from Dick Bazett, which came late, will be held over for the Spring Sale/Mother's Day Sale.

The decision to hold the sale in Winnipeg for two days in conjunction with The Friends Sunday 'Fall Cleanup Sale' was a good decision. The Sunday sales where approx. \$5,000.00 which would not have been available to the Society if we had not joined with The Friends. Setup went smoothly because there where a large number of volunteers. However, more staff is required the day of sale in all areas regardless of the number of days. This will allow for shorter shifts for the volunteers, more time to spend with the customers and allow the volunteer members the opportunity to socialize with each other.

Brandon sales where approx. the same as last year without the extra work of being in the Farmers Market, so another good decision was made.

Dauphin sales were excellent. They were busy all day, and in fact opened early and closed late. It was a good decision to hold it at the Town Mall even though there was a cost of \$40.00 for the table rental. The decision to send a portion of all the available stock was a correct one as people who attended both the Brandon sale and Dauphin Sale where impressed that there was such a good selection. Suggest that it be held in Dauphin again next year, however

more help should be available as the sale was worked by four people in the morning, and only three people in the afternoon, and that included setup, sales, cash and tear down.

### ADVERTISING:

The Rural Newspapers, Rural Access TV channels, Internet Posting, E-mail broadcasts were available through members, The Winnipeg Free Press - 'What to do in September Calendar', The WFP Gardening Section - Events Schedule (twice), The Winnipeg Sun Activity Corner, The WREB Newsletter, The Community Newspapers - The North End Times, The Lance, The Herald and The Times. CBC What's Happening, CJOB Community Activities.

Posters where placed around Winnipeg in some of the shopping centers, and the handout was placed at the Conservatory, T&T Seeds, Shelmerdines and Shriemers, and it was announced at four Horticultural Meetings that we know about. The Dauphin Herald ran an article on growing lilies on the prairies, and over 30 posters where placed in various locations in Dauphin and Gilbert Plains. The Friends hosted a lily slide presentation on September 27/01, which stimulated good sales from The Friends membership. As well, the sale was advertised in The Friends newsletter.

The sales where all very successful and the total gross revenue was good. The only thing that would have made it more successful is more volunteers doing the work, and more Experts there to answer the questions. Having more people to work the sale would give people the opportunity to spend more time with potential customers and increase sales.

**Suggest** setting up a Bulb Sale Committee earlier in the year. The Committee should be comprised at a minimum of the following chairs:

1. Chairperson
2. Bulb Selection, washing, bagging, labeling etc.
3. Volunteer Coordinator
4. Volunteer Supplies - coffee, snacks, supplies
5. Set-up/Tear Down
6. Registration/Cash/Membership
7. Sales Floor/Sales Material - pictures, profiles
8. Advertising

The committee should start to meet early, formulate the overall requirements and time frames to accomplish the

## Coming Events & Notices:

### **M.R.L.S. Judging School Become a NALS Accredited Judge**

**Date:** February 16, 2002, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Royal Oak Inn, 3130 Victoria Ave,  
Brandon, MB.  
Hotel Reservations Ph: 1-800-852-2709  
**Fee:** \$25.00 includes lunch & coffee breaks

**Requirements:** Course 1 & 2 will be held. Material to thoroughly studied before course - **Judging School Handbook & Lets Grow Lilies**, both produced by North American Lily Society. These are available from MRLS and will be sent to you as soon as registration fee is recieved.

#### **Reasons to enroll in a judging school:**

1.) It is the first step in becoming an accredited N.A.L.S. lily judge. This enables you to serve your regional societies and the N.A.L.S. in an important role.

2.) The course benefits you in your ability to show prize winning stems, i.e. the selecting of a stem that has the most opportunity to win, the grooming, the transportation and the do's and don'ts in showing.

3.) The course adds to your knowledge in growing your favorite flower, the lily to perfection and in the culture and understanding of its needs.

4.) As a hybridizer, the course enables you to evaluate your seedlings as to what makes an outstanding plant. It helps you to select which parents to use in your breeding work to achieve your goal.

One of the reasons or perhaps all of the above reasons are incentives to attend a judging school and will give you a higher sense of achievement in knowing and understanding the genus liliium. Instructors giving Course 1 and 2 are Dr. Wilbert Ronald and Barrie Strohmman.

For further information contact Barrie Strohmman at 204-476-3225

Publications needed are available from MRLS

### **Notice:**

Attention all members!! Our historian, Rose Lacey, is retiring after being our historian since MRLS conception. The Board is looking for a volunteer for this position.

Please contact Susan LeBlanc at 204-864-2254  
Many thanks to Rose for all her years of keeping track of the history of our Society!!

### **Slides on Reg Gallop's Trip to Australia**

**Date:** January 16th, 2002, 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Assiniboine Park Conservatory Lobby  
2355 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB.  
(Located in the Assiniboine Park)

### **MARCH SEMINAR and Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** March 23, 2002, 8:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Westward Inn, Portage la Prairie, MB  
**Cost:** \$25.00 - includes lunch and coffee breaks

Guest Speaker - Dick Bazett of Kelowna, BC

#### Topics:

Orienpet Breeding  
Tetraploid Breeding  
Report on Lily Breeding in Tasmania  
Report on New Zealand International Lily Show  
Report on MRLS Research  
Q & A Panel  
Lily Arranging

### **International Lily Conference 2002**

The New Zealand Lily Society invites you to the 70th Anniversary of their Society at the International Lily Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, January 11-14, 2002.

For more information email: mlleper@zfree.ca.nz

# Judging School Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

- |                          |   |         |
|--------------------------|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Judging School Registration Fee         | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Showing Lilies - Handbook for the Judge | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Let's Grow Lilies                       | \$ 8.00 |

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE TIME HAS COME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!**

**THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!!**

(Membership expiry date can be found on the Address label after surname)

## **M.R.L.S. Membership Renewal Form - Deadline Dec. 31/2001**

\$5.00 Year — Single Membership

\$7.50 Year — Family/Society Membership

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

**SEND TO: MARLENE PULS**

**99 MACALESTER BAY**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**R3T 2X6**

