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## MAKE YOUR EASTER LILIES KEEP ON GIVING

**Steps for Success!** 



As the flowers mature, remove the yellow anthers before the pollen starts to shed. This gives longer flower life and prevents the pollen from staining the white flowers. When a mature flower starts to wither after its prime, cut it off to make the plant more attractive while you still enjoy the fresher, newly opened blooms.

The lily will thrive near a window in bright, indirect natural daylight, but avoid glaring, direct sunlight.

Easter Lilies prefer moderately moist, well-drained soil. Water the plant thoroughly when the soil surface feels dry to a light touch, but avoid over-watering. If the pot is wrapped in decorative foil, be careful not to let the plant sit in trapped, standing water. For best results, remove the plant from decorative pots or covers; take it over the sink and water thoroughly until water seeps out of the pots drain holes to completely saturate the soil. Allow the plant to air for a few minutes and discard the excess water before replacing it back into its decorative pot cover.

To plant your Easter Lilies outside, prepare a well-drained garden bed in a sunny location with rich, organic matter

Plant the Easter lily bulbs 3 inches below ground level, and mound up an additional 3 inches of <u>#1 Baccto Garden Soil</u> over the bulb. Plant bulbs at least 12 to 18 inches apart in a hole sufficiently deep so that the bulbs can be placed in it with the roots spread out and down, as they naturally grow. Spread the roots and work the prepared soil in around the bulbs and the roots, leaving no air pockets. Water in immediately and thoroughly after planting. Try not to allow the soil to heave or shift after planting.

As the original plants begin to die back, cut the stems back to the soil surface. New growth will soon emerge. The Easter Lilies, which were forced to bloom under controlled greenhouse conditions in March, bloom naturally in the summer. You may be rewarded with a second bloom later this summer, but most likely you will have to wait until next June or July to see your Easter Lilies bloom again.

Another planting tip to consider is that lilies like their roots in shade and their heads in the sun. Mulching with <u>#2 Scotts Nature Scapes Mulch</u> helps conserve moisture in between watering, keeps the soil cool and loose, and provides a fluffy, nutritious medium for the stem roots.

The Easter lily bulbs are surprisingly hardy even in cold climates. Just be sure to provide winter protection by mulching the ground with a thick, generous layer. Carefully remove the mulch in the spring to allow new shoots to come up. Use <u>#3 Osmacote</u> slow release fertilizer to help plants develope stronger root systems. Your Easter Lilies will keep on giving beauty, grace and fragrance in years to come.