

# HARRIS® SEEDS



## CUT LILY GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

Programmed lilies are stored frozen and can be planted year round. Frozen lilies thaw out during shipping and must be planted soon after arrival. Lily bulbs may be stored in a cooler for no longer than a few days. If sprouts start to appear, plant immediately. Outdoor planting can begin a couple of weeks before the last frost date in spring. Lilies that are just starting to sprout can take a light frost if the leaves have not begun to unfurl.

Lilies may be planted in the field, in ground beds, or crates in tunnels and greenhouses, and must be protected from deer damage.

Plant with 4-5" of soil over the bulb. Roots that form on the stem above the bulb are important for quality cut flowers. Plant up to 20 bulbs per bulb crate, or every 6-9" in the field. Water well when planting, then only water after they have sprouted. If growing in crates, it is advisable to grow them in a cool area for several weeks before putting them in the greenhouse or tunnel. This allows for better root growth.

Use a balanced fertilizer that includes calcium nitrate for stronger stem growth. After buds have formed, be sure they get sufficient water. In a warm greenhouse or tunnel, daily watering may be needed for crate grown lilies. Water the soil, not the plants. Keep the leaves and flowers dry.

50% shade cloth is recommended for summertime greenhouse or tunnel growing. 50% shade can also be used for outdoor growing.

Botrytis can occur during extended periods of rain and humidity. Be sure the plants have good air circulation and that the leaves don't stay wet for extended periods.

Pick and sell lilies in bud stage. Harvest when the largest bud is about to open. Cut lilies early in the day. Avoid picking in the heat of the day. Don't put "just-picked" lilies (especially Oriental varieties) from a hot greenhouse or tunnel directly into a cold cooler. Cool them down slowly to prevent damage from rapid cooling. Store in a 34-38 degree cooler.

Field planted lilies may overwinter and produce stems with fewer buds the second year, but flowers are often good for use in mixed bouquets.

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