

B&D Lilies • LILY BULB PLANTING GUIDE

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Have additional questions? Phone: 360-765-4341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, Pacific time)

1. Plant A.S.A.P. - 4" to 6" deep
2. Raised beds (or slope) if clay soil
3. 1/2 day of sun (or more)
4. Regular watering & weeding

Lily bulbs are never completely dormant and need to be planted as soon as you are able. You can delay planting for a short time by keeping the poly bags of bulbs in your home refrigerator. Packing material will protect the bulbs and absorb moisture while they are waiting to be planted, but check for excessive condensation within the bags every few days. If bulbs sprout more than 2 inches, plant quickly as possible into containers or garden. Although we do not recommend growing lilies indoors without a greenhouse or solarium (they need lots of light indoors), you can bring potted lilies inside when buds are beginning to open, enjoying their beauty and fragrance.

Soil & Sun: Good air circulation & well-drained soil are most important. In their native habitat, nature provides a bulb with the required drainage. Under cultivation, you must select the proper location. Waterlogged, "sticky clay" soils are certain death to most lilies during winter. A sloping site with natural drainage is the best location. When planting on level ground in clay soil, it is wise to "raise" your planting area to aid drainage. Sandy loam soils rich in humus are ideal. The addition of peat moss is appreciated - lilies prefer slightly acid ground with a PH of around 5.5-6.5 Do not plant where roots from large trees or shrubs will rob nutrients or moisture from your lilies. The bulbs are soft and fleshy. For long life, avoid planting lily bulbs within aggressive groundcovers. Provide regular irrigation (until soil is evenly moist at root level, every 10 to 14 days) and control weeds.

Locate Asiatic lily bulbs in full sun or bright indirect light in all areas. Oriental bulbs in climates with daily temperatures consistently over 90 degrees should have afternoon shade, or dappled sunlight. Stems may "stretch" towards the sun if in too much shade. Foggy coastal areas, plant all varieties in full sun or light shade, but provide good air circulation.

Planting: Groups of three bulbs of the same variety, spaced 12 to 18 inches apart, are very pleasing to the eye, and give the illusion of mature "clumps" the first year. Cover 3-inch (diameter) bulbs with 4 to 6 inches of fluffy soil, smaller ones shallower, Exhibition-size™ bulbs deeper.

Fertilizer: Use a complete vegetable fertilizer, low in nitrogen, such as 5-10-10, scattered in the Spring when stems begin to emerge, and just before flowering. Bone meal may be used if desired, but avoid mixing commercial fertilizer directly into the root zone; tender new roots could be burned. Very sandy soil requires additional feeding. Well-rotted manure, decomposed leaves or compost is excellent for top-dressing in the Fall, provides nutrients, plus keeps soil loose for easy penetration of yearly stem roots. Container plants may use time-release granules mixed in fast-draining potting soil.

Watering: Always check soil moisture before turning on sprinklers. Lilies, by their very nature, are designed to store water in times of drought. If soil is still damp two inches below surface - wait. We irrigate every 7 to 14 days, depending on temperature & rainfall. Avoid overhead irrigation to prevent Botrytis spores from affecting your lilies if summer is humid. If you spray roses to prevent fungus diseases, spray your lilies at the same time.

LILY BULB - Planting Checklist

Unpack and check bulbs

If any part of your order is missing, or was damaged in shipping, call *immediately* with your invoice handy.

Choose sun or dappled shade

Lily bulbs (*Lilium*) need full sun or at least 6 hours of sun or bright indirect light to grow well in most areas. Bright light produces the sturdiest plants without need of staking. **High Desert** or cool **Mountainous** areas; **Midwestern** and **Severe Winter** areas; **dry California interior** and **Southern States**, please see reverse side for more information.

Check air circulation

Do not plant in "dead-air" locations and avoid closely overhanging branches and automatic sprinkling systems. Poor air flow, plus high humidity will contribute to fungus problems. Lilies like open, sunny areas.

Review companion plants

Lily bulbs are compatible with shallow-rooted perennials, such as Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), or annuals which do not shade emerging sprouts. Be advised that water and nutrient-robbing tree and/or shrub roots can stunt your bulb's growth, so do not plant within root masses or under aggressive plants.

Add bone meal and/or fertilizer to soil in bottom of hole

New planting sites should be amended with compost/manure or one tablespoon low-nitrogen fertilizer per bulb or try our new Easy-To-Use Fertilizer Tablets. (*This step can be omitted for well-fed, established beds.*)

Prepare I.D. labels

Small plastic labels, with cultivar name and current date, written in pencil, and buried with only the top half-inch above ground, will last for years and provide a good record.

Place bulbs at least 8 to 12 inches apart

Asiatics - 4 to 6 inches above bulb.

Trumpets & Orientals - 6 to 8 inches.

Lilium Species - According to size. (*Smaller bulbs, 2 to 4 inches; larger bulb types, such as L. regale, 4 to 6 inches. L. superbum, 2 to 3 inches.*)

Water well, even if raining

You must water to firm the soil and remove any air pockets, even if rain is in the forecast. If you forget to water, your bulb roots will not have firm contact with soil and nutrients.

Mulch to reduce maintenance

To reduce weeds in mild climates, cover newly planted beds with 1 to 2 inches of porous material. Severe climates: mulch lilies as any other first-year perennial, removing layers as garden thaws in late spring.



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