

Growing lilies

PLANTING

The soil must be well drained and receive from 5 to 6 hours of sunlight every day. When planting the bulb, care must be applied when compacting the soil, as too firm a compacting could end up crushing the bulb. Similarly, the formation of air pockets around the bulb can be prevented by ensuring that the bulb is entirely covered with soil. Once planted and fertilized, it must be copiously watered, though not to the point of flooding. Regarding depth, I would recommend that the bulb be covered with a layer of soil ranging from 6 to 8 inches thick. Lastly, the distance between the bulbs may vary. However, we recommend a minimum of 6 inches (15 cm) so that there can be an adequate flow of air between the plants in order to dry them up during wet periods.

FERTILIZATION

Use adequate compost. I recommend an annual spread of 1 inch on the soil's surface in the spring, to be repeated in the fall.

DISEASE

One fungal disease has to be watched for: the botrytis. This disease manifests itself during wet weather. Treatment must then be applied using a fungicide (such as the one used to treat rosebush black spots), otherwise it will cause a premature yellowing of the foliage. Light brown halos on the leaves are a clear sign of it. Affected stems and remains must be removed in the fall, and new stems have to be treated with a fungicide very early in the following spring. This disease does not attack the bulb unless seen reappearing year after year, since it is the foliage that feeds the bulb.

INSECT: THE LILY BEETLE

To get rid of the lily beetle, careful monitoring has to be started very early in the spring, as soon as your lilies sprout from the ground. Keep an eye open all throughout summer. Their bright red colour makes them easy to spot. Small holes in the leaves are also an indication of their presence.

PYRETHRUM-BASED :

*Safer's End All, *Bug B Gon, etc..

PERMETHRIN-BASED INSECTICIDE:

Concentrated insecticide * Bug-X *

Concentrated insecticide * Ambush *