

Bulbs & Bulblets

Official Croft Lily Growers News Items

SUGGESTIONS FOR LILY GROWERS

Editor, Pilot: Dear Sir—In response to your request for current data on fertilizing Easter lilies, we offer the following suggestions which may prove of interest and value to many of the newer growers, particularly:

First, we must bear in mind there is no hard and fast or iron-clad rule in fertilizing. Soils in this locality differ and vary so much in nutrient content. We recall the recent well-chosen and spoken words of Dr. Arthur King, soil specialist at Oregon State College, who declared it was impossible (as well as impractical) for the college to attempt to lay down a definite formula for lily growers to follow. Dr. King had been asked if he could tell us what kind of fertilizer to use, how much to use and how often it should be applied.

In answer to these questions this authority said that he could not do this because of difference in soil fertility in this vicinity. Two adjoining pieces of land, may even differ radically.

Second, We believe that over-fertilization is worse than under-fertilization. It is believed many of us have been too liberal with our fertilizer. Some authorities claim that an excess of fertilizer may cause trouble in the greenhouses the following year when our lily bulbs are under pressure and are being forced. Indeed, the greenhouse men have told us that our over-use of fertilizer reduces the bud count and may even cause total loss of all blooms. (We can't imagine anything more useless or worthless than an Easter lily without any blooms).

Third, We recall that four or

five years ago the "Old Timers" used nothing but bone meal to fertilize. Now, bone meal is about next to nothing as far as a fertilizer is concerned. Contains nothing but a small percentage of phosphoric acid and only one per cent or less of nitrogen. The fertilizer experts state that it is very slow acting and really does not become available until almost a year after it is applied. We have seen many of the fine-large bulbs that were grown by these "old timers" and we know their bulbs forced beautifully in the greenhouse and there were no complaints of any lack of buds or blooms in those days. Now, whether this was just a coincidence or not we cannot say. We have noted one thing, however, in connection with the use of bone meal. After using it at the planting time for lilies the cover crop the following year would be a foot higher where the old lily rows had been. Dr. King advises the use of bone meal on the land where you intend to plant bulbs rather than waiting to use it at bulb planting time.

In conclusion, it is our humble opinion that if you must fertilize, use discretion also.

We would like to hear from other growers on this subject, (whether you agree with us or not), giving us your experience and advice on this most timely subject. Yours very truly, H. T.

James, secretary, Croft Lily Growers Association.

Unbiased Report Carried In "June" Monthly Bulletin

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which were sent for trial by the following brokers: Vaughan's Seed Store, American Bulb Co., Alec Henderson, Fred Gloeckner Co., and Fight Floral Co.

The general conclusions of the tests are:

1. Croft and its strains in general are the best pot lilies.
2. All lilies may be started in a temperature of 60-65 without placing in a cold house prior to forcing.
3. For early Easter, pre-cooling of Crofts, Coos, Estate, at 40-45 degrees for three weeks is necessary, although bud count will be reduced.
4. Estate, Creole, Mexican, make good cut lilies. Of these Estate gives the highest bud count, with Oregon-grown Creole next, followed by the Mexican and the Louisiana Creole last.

More Specifically—

CROFT
1. Oregon and northern California strains produce higher bud counts and are much shorter than Louisiana, Florida, and Washington-grown.

2. The expected bud count is about as follows: 6-7—2 buds; 7—3-4 buds; 7-8—4-5 buds; 8-9—6 buds and 10-12—7 buds.

3. The height varies from 15 to 24 inches, Oregon grown; and 30 or more for southern grown.

4. Louisiana Croft, if planted in September, will flower early in January.

5. Storage at 40-45 degrees has a tendency to reduce bud count, but permits later planting. Thus Crofts planted in early November and those stored for four weeks in 40 degrees and planted in early December flowered about the same time—Easter.

KENYON DAVIS

Excellent short growing lily with high bud count. 8-10 size blasting and thus increase bud 65 degrees at Easter. Height 17.5 inches; bud count, 5.

CREOLE

Good for cut. Grows cooler, 50-55 degrees. This will reduce the plating and thus increase bud count. Don't crowd. 6-7 size will give two to three flowers; 7-8 size 3-4; 8-9 size 4-5. September planting may be flowered in December. December planting will make early Easter. Cold storage at 40 does not reduce bud count unless stored longer than four weeks. Oregon-grown Creole is shorter than Louisiana. Started in middle of December the Oregon-grown will make Easter at 60 degrees with stems about 24 inches long and better bud count than the southern grown.

ESTATE

Too tall for pot plants. Pre-cooling at 40 for four to six weeks decreases length of stem and also bud count, but early Easter may be made at 60 to 65 degrees. The Louisiana grown is early, but be properly ripened to flour. 7-8 bud count 5-7. Height normally 36 to 48 inches.

ACE

Excellent bud count. Height satisfactory for pot plants, but too slow unless pre-cooled before planting. Record: 7-8 size planted Nov. 7, flowered April 15 to May 15. Height 28, bud count, 8.

Thor Ask left Tuesday on a business trip to Portland and vicinity. He plans to attend a meeting of cold storage locker men being held at Portland.

FOR SALE—'36 Ford V-8 truck equipped for heavy hauling. Inquire W. J. Stafford, Box 31, Brookings.

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PLUMBING

WATCH THIS CORNER

Pine Cone Theatre

Friday-Saturday, April 26 and 27—

"My Name Is Julia Ross"

Double Bill, with Johnny Mack Brown in
"West of the Rio"

Sunday-Monday, April 28 and 29—

The Fabulous Story of the Boston Strong Boy
BING CROSBY PRODUCTIONS presents

"THE GREAT JOHN L."
starring

LINDA DARNELL
BARBARA BRITTON
and introducing
GREG MCCLURE
as "John L. Sullivan"
and **LEE SULLIVAN**
as "Mickey"

Wednesday-Thursday, May 1 and 2—

"The Men In Her Life"

with Loretta Young, Conrad Veidt and Otto Kruger, plus a cartoon.