

Along Azaiea Row

By RUTH B. SMITH

*Have you seen but a bright lily grow,
Before rude hands have touched it?
Have you marked but the fall of the snow,
Before the soil hath smutched it?*—Ben Jonson.

Fortunate indeed are the new arrivals and the travelers whose first glimpse of this area is one of fields of white against the background of our coast line. To one who had known these lilies only as they came from the florist shops at Easter — tall, stately, with a premium on each head—it seemed criminal that all these blossoms must be sacrificed. No wonder the Lily Festival was born

so all could have a close-up of the breath taking beauty of the Croft or the Estate lily en masse.

Little can the stranger realize the weeks of toil which go into the producing of these blooms nor the material wealth which lies beneath the surface of the soil. This is the season of the year when we, locally, truly appreciate the effort expended to bring to perfection the valuable lily bulb which benefits so many. Now is the time, too, for the layman gardener to plant his bulbs — not necessarily for the monetary harvest but for the beauty of the spring and summer time. The moist atmosphere and the sunshine of this section of the coast are ideal for growing almost every kind of bulb; they do not like arid regions. Planting now, to give time for the adjustment to chillier ground, will bring almost guaranteed success

with a minimum of time expended if one grows for effects, primarily. In a recent magazine article, Jan de Graaf, authority on lily growing, told of the joy of growing lilies in one's own garden because, in addition to the beauty of their variety of colors and forms, they flower through most of the growing season in this climate and can never be classed as common flowers.

Lilies combine well against the native backgrounds of Oregon, namely the green of the firs and hemlocks and against the rhododendrons and azaleas. For June bloom Mr. deGraaf recommends the Olympic Hybrid trumpet lily which towers above the other kinds such as the new Aurelians (Sunburst, Heart's Desire and Golden Clarion) while always dependable are the L. pumilum (the Coral lily), L. amabile or the star-shaped L. concolor. He warns that the amabile is not for house-pleasure because of its strong odor. Small groups of these species are effective contrasts to the green and when combined with the golden yellow L. amabile luteum or the white L. martagon album, make a wonderful place for themselves in any garden spot.

The Madonna lily combines well with delphinium and the Mid-Centurys are "hardy, vigorous, dependable, colorful, shapely and prolific". Their colors range from parchment, yellow or salmon (L. Harlequin and Tango) to the amber-pink of Pagoda, the nasturtium red of Enchantment or the mahogany red of Fireflame and Camfire. There is our start for June!

For July to September blooming, let's come home and admire the speciosum hybrids being developed here by our own Leslie Woodriff of Harbor. These lilies are happy choices for the beginning gardener, too, because they are disease resistant, vigorous and produce many buds. The colors run the gamut from pale pink to deep red and the foliage is a healthy green not always found in other varieties. Along with these recommendations for Mr. Woodriff's lilies, most significant to the garden-clubber or the arranger is their excellence for cutting purposes and the fact they will last for two weeks in ordinary room temperature. Like the ladiolas, when the stem is cut as the buds start into bloom they will last until the final bud opens — as will the color. A visit to the Woodriffs at the proper season is an education and we are proud of his contributions to flower culture through his horticultural experimentation.

We live in a bulb-conscious district and should become aware for ourselves what they can do for our gardens, even though the start may be modest. Then with Jan de Graaf we can say, "They tell me by their example in my garden, how for thousands of years they have adapted themselves to meet the demands of man for beauty in his surroundings; how they have become symbols of political, social and religious life; how they have figured in man's speech since long before the birth of Christ."

October is at hand, signaling that another Garden Club afternoon is at hand, come October 8.

The program chairman, Ruth Bathiany, has a fine program planned, starting with the Roll-call, "Our Town Needs"—horticulturally speaking, of course! Please remember to bring your garden surplus, preferably in box or pot to protect the roots,—and your purse, for two reasons: to buy some additions for your garden

Brookings Harbor Pilot 111
Thursday, October 1, 1953

plot, thus letting Mrs. Glen Rogers go home with pockets jingling and to allow yourself a membership fee discount before the dead-line of October 15.

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