

Fred Abbey writes about  
Alaska X Nutmegger  
Seed List #71

As to Alaska X Nutmegger, if it is listed that way, then that is the cross. All crosses were made as I always make them, opening the flower before the tip even expanded, but without protecting the bloom after pollination, (or rather I should say, after emasculation). By the time Alaska was open, there would have been nothing in the Aurelian, or any other Henry derivatives even within miles. Allegra might have been. So, if it is an Alaska seed parent as the listing would indicate, then it is an outside cross. - - As to it's being possible, - anything is,

Fred writes about some  
L. pumilum variants.

PEW-  
MIL-  
UM

Some years ago I found in a large planting of L. pumilum, a few plants with segments (sepals and tepals) which were white. However, the whiteness was rather a lack of color, rather than a true white. The blooms didn't open, but remained shaped about the calyx. The first move was to cross them and also self them. Nothing happened. I propagated them from scales to be sure I wouldn't lose them and had excellent success.

Incidentally, the best time to propagate L. pumilum would appear to be in August, as soon as the stems begin to ripen. Then or later, I treated some of the scales with colchicine, following the method set down by Dr. Emsweller. As soon as the propagation that had colchicine attained size, it became apparent that I had been successful in part. The flower stems were stronger, but they were twisted all out of shape, some even making a complete circle. Others were weaker, - some had doubled calyxes. None had perfect flowers. I noted that a few had edges of the segments that were colored, - not quite red, but with orange. Altho they carried heavy heads of flowers, not one could be induced to seed. Lily people will realize that a number of years elapsed.

I asked Dr. Sam about these and he said this was characteristic of colchicine treated stock, but that, with luck, they would grow out of the crippling habit of growth, and of course to keep trying for seed. I had also used colchicine on Yellow Bunting, which resulted in a stronger form of it. I told Ruth Clas about them, and I probably sent her some bulbs of Super-X, as I designated the white form, but I also sent her some pollen of L. pumilum.

Ruth had some good forms of L. pumilum

4. L. pumilum continued.

she had segregated, and as I recall it, she managed to set seed from the tetraploid Super-X, which would of course give us triploid seedlings.

She shared her seed with me, and I gave it to Tom Haddock, Gardenside. It was sown in two six inch fern pans, and as there was quite a bit of it, the pans were crowded. During 1965 I took them to North Ferrisburg and planted the mass of seedlings as they were. Despite their crowding, a number of stems appeared last summer, 1966. Some of them had the same pigment-less flowers, and others had the orange red edges. I tried to seed them, but an animal trampled them and nothing resulted.

Late in the summer we took them up and reset the lot; there are probably 300 or more most of which should flower in 1967, and show us what we've attained. I suppose we must consider them all triploids, and it is possible there is a chance for seeding. I refuse to speculate on what to expect, - I've been disappointed too many times.

We expect to be home May 5th or 6th, - the bed will be uncovered, and I trust all will be in growth.

Sincerely,

Gleanings from Ruth Clas' letter.

Edith Cecelia hybrids are apt to be basal rot prone as witness reports in robins and elsewhere, (and her observations); Olga Tiemann, Mo. told me she couldn't grow L. cernuum like she used to. An authority says that L. cernuum is quite susceptible to mosaic and to basal rot... and so are its hybrids. My thought is that MANY lilies are "hard to keep" and the E. C. hybrids are just one step along the way to better hybrids.

My Spotless Yellow Canadense X Grayi seed is germinating well.. just put some of them in the refrigerator today, for planting out come Spring. - Lois Lutz, Penna., has red canadense native there which look half way between the bell-like canadense of the Northeast and the thimble-like stubby grayi. Lois' and Ilsa Ouhl's red canadense don't look alike at all in shape. I say Ilsa's are the REAL canadense and Lois' are not the pure. (Come, come, girls! Ed.)

Feb. 1st and time to set up the first of my 1967 Germination Experiments. I have 50-some species in varying amounts. Paid Thompson & Morgan, Eng. over \$20.00 just for seed for experiment! (It's just money! Ed.) They did not have all the species they listed. Park Seed Co. had some listed that I needed. Thank Heaven for friends who "Came through" with Free species seed. The PLAN is to start a batch the first of each mo. from "too early" right thru to "too late", and find out when they WILL germinate.

