

down mosaic to a minimum. About the only sure way to get mosaic-free lilies is to raise the seedlings in ground isolated from all other lily plantings. At the present time most of the commercial stocks of bulbs are imported from Japan and these are known to be infected with mosaic to a greater or less degree. If one buys imported bulbs, except for those collected from the wild, about all they can do is to plant them and then in the spring examine them closely for mosaic and destroy plants which are obviously infected.

The ideal soil for a lily bed is a deep well drained sandy loam which permits a rapid passage of water. The presence of gravel or bits of rock is often an advantage. In general, the heavy clays which bake or remain soggy should be avoided as should the very light sands which dry out very quickly and lack organic matter. It can be said with some assurance that most varieties of lilies can be grown to advantage on any good agricultural soil provided it is well drained. If such soils are present in the garden less attention may be given to soil preparation. On the other hand, if soils are heavy and drainage poor modification is necessary. Such modification requires the provision of drainage by tile or rock drains, to 2 feet deep and so arranged that they provide ready access of the water from the lily bed. Digging a hole in tight subsoil and filling it with rocks or cinders will rarely prove an advantage unless there is some way for water to get out of the hole. Heavy soils can be lightened by mixing them with coarse sand or fine cinders or gravel. The addition of granulated peat, muck or woods earth is also an advantage both because of its effect on the physical nature of the soil in promoting aeration and the fact that it supplies organic matter as well.

Excessively light soils may be modified by the addition of silt or loam and organic matter which adds to the moisture holding capacity of the soil as described above.

With the exception of *L. candidum* which is planted in late July immediately after flowering, lily bulbs are normally set in the fall.

In moving bulbs in the garden a good practice is to do this in the early fall after the first frosts. The bulbs should be carefully dug and the basal roots moved intact. Many species of lilies tend to form clumps if they are doing well. Ordinarily such clumps need not be disturbed unless they become crowded to the point where the blooms are small and the stems short.

Bulbs purchased from American nurserymen are either locally grown, collected or imported. The first named are usually dug early enough so that they are received for planting before the ground freezes. Imported bulbs may not arrive before late December. Under these conditions the plot of ground where they are to be planted may be well prepared in advance and kept from freezing by a heavy mulch. The bulbs should be planted as soon as possible after receipt and in no case should they be allowed to dry out. Another method of handling bulbs received late is to plant them in deep pots and store the pots in a cool place. Giving them the same treatment as in forcing tulips or narcissus bulbs is good practice. The spring planting of stored lily bulbs sometimes gives good results but may result in weak growth which is disappointing, or in failure of the bulb to come up at all till the second season.

The depth of planting lily bulbs is important. The kinds of lilies fall into