



*L. michiganense*

# Ontario Regional Lily Society

## THE NEWSLETTER

15th Annual Lily Show  
of the

Ontario Regional Lily Society

July 19th, 1980 & July 20, 1980

O.R.L.S. Annual Picnic, July 13, 1980

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Honourary President

Dr. Leslie Laking  
Royal Botanical Gardens  
Hamilton, Ontario

President

Dr. David Brunsdon  
1118 Springhill Dr.  
Mississauga, Ont.

Vice-President

James Hart  
5410 Windermere Dr.  
Burlington, Ontario

Secretary

Mrs. Gordon Brown  
R.R. 1  
Harley, Ontario

Treasurer

Mrs. William Reid  
871 Glenwood Ave.  
Burlington, Ontario

Vice-President, NALS

Dr. William D. Evans  
45 Cedar Street  
Guelph, Ontario

Directors: Term expiring Annual Meeting, 1981:

Fred L. Archer, Mississauga, Ontario  
Gordon Brown, Harley, Ontario  
Ted Carson, Hornby, Ontario  
Ronald Shaw, Inglewood, Ontario

Term expiring Annual Meeting, 1982:

Miss Adeline J. Bowland, Binbrook, Ontario  
James Esser, Rochester, New York  
William J. Hoggarth, Stratford, Ontario  
Mrs. William N. Peebles, Burlington, Ontario

Chairmen for 1980:

Program for annual meeting:

Dr. Wm. Evans

Show:

Mrs. Ian S. Barber

Publications:

T. Ross Martin, Editor  
L. Maureen Barber, Asst.

Publicity:

Charles Robinson

Slides:

Fred Archer

Awards:

Robert S. Barber

Social Convenor:

Muriel Hoggarth

Auction Chairman:

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### DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Bulb Auction: Saturday, October 4, 1980

Director's Meeting: Wednesday, October 29, 1980 - 7.30 P.M.

1981 Lily Show: Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12, 1981



## Editor's Notebook

This edition of the Notebook will be a little of everything. Much has happened since the Annual Meeting in April and now with the flowering season upon us, I am sure everyone is more interested in weeding, feeding, and enjoying the wonderful display of lilies our efforts produce.

The weather this past spring has not always co-operated fully. Some areas report frosts well into June, others complain of cool spring growing conditions. Whatever the chinks nature casts our way, the lilies always make a significant showing to keep our interests high.

Show time is upon us too. With the NALS show in Mansfield, the weekend of July 11-13, our show has been moved back a week to July 19 & 20. The later date means that many asiatics will be past their prime at showtime. Therefore it is imperative to have everyone try to store a few of the early lilies for the show and bring as many of their mid-season stems as possible for the exhibition. Remember very few perfect lilies are ever exhibited, so don't hesitate to bring lilies because someone may have something better. The schedule for our show is enclosed with this issue--do read it over and plan to participate in whatever way you can. Many hands make light work! Maureen Barber, this year's show chairman, will be only too pleased to have the problem of too many workers.

The picnic this year is a week before the show. The Gardners have opened their home and garden for our annual get-to-gether and provide us with a preview of prize winning lilies Charles will bring to the show. The picnic lunch supplied by the members usually caps off a most successful afternoon.

The Annual Meeting was a huge success with Dr. Les Laking giving us a brief tour of the RBG by slides and lecture. Obviously, the Gardens are working diligently to provide new and hardy plants for our Canadian climate. We were pleased to see their efforts so well documented on transparencies. The slides of last year's NALS show from Ian Barber, Georgina Mentis, David Brunsdon and others are magnificent and I hope many will find their way into our ORLS slide library. I would like to see a special collection of artistic arrangements developed by the society especially in view of the fact we have such excellent designers and photographers to record their work.

A great deal of work was undertaken at the Annual Meeting. A new slate of officers was elected as recorded on page 1. Our thanks to Dr. Evans for his great work as president, and a word of welcome to our new president Dr. David Brunsdon. The constitution as recommended in the March Newsletter was approved. Members should refer to that issue to remind themselves of the modifications. One change that will affect many of us is the fact that unpaid members will be dropped from the membership rolls if dues are not paid by March 31. This means that members delinquent as of April 1st will no longer receive the Newsletter. Please help our volunteer officers by paying your membership on time. The treasurer's report is detailed elsewhere in the Newsletter showing we have a healthy financial picture. At the board meeting held June 4th donations to the RBG of \$500.00, and the NALS of U.S. \$100.00 will put some of our funds at work to further lilies and gardening in general.

Ten members of the Society attended the NALS judging school at RBG



Centre, June 21st, conducted by Ross Martin. This was the first session of the school; the second will be held at RBG Centre on Sat. July 19th at 3.30 P.M. by Dr. Leslie Laking and will centre around identification and classification. A number of the students will participate in judging this year's show to gain further experience.

The Berry Botanic Garden, 11505 S.W. Summerville Ave., Portland, Oregon 97219 has established a garden sanctuary for lily species. Any member who can collect and send seed of species is requested to assist in the worthwhile project. (For further information on this project, consult the 1979 NALS Yearbook beginning on page 96.)

Have a good lily season! Join in the fun of not only growing lilies but exhibiting them as well.

Ross

### New Lilies from Ontario Growers

Seven new hybrids have been named by Ontario hybridizers in 1980 which will be offered on the commercial market in 1980 or thereafter. They are:

- From Dr. W.D. Evans, Guelph (University of Guelph)  
**ABERFOYLE** (L. davidii var. unicolor x Lillian Cummings) x Edith Cecilia sibling crossed. Cadmium orange pendant flowers on a sturdy short stem. Reverse orange with green stripe and spinal red base. Few spots near throat. Early July.
- ARKELL** ((L. davidii var. unicolor x Lillian Cummings) x Edith Cecilia) x Skylark. Spinal red with deeper centre stripe, recurved, throat white, lightly spotted. Blooms early July on a strong short stem--3 Ft.
- JALNA** ((L. davidii var. unicolor x Lillian Cummings) x Edith Cecilia) x Skylark x (L. davidii var. unicolor x Lillian Cummings). Nasturtium orange with large plum purple spotting, long pedicels, fully recurved, up to 30 outfacing flowers on well spaced cylindrical head. 4 Ft.
- From Charles Robinson, Erin, Ontario  
**DIPLOMAT** Connecticut King x (Orange Light x (L. davidii unicolor x Stenographer sdlg.)). Upfacing spotless deep orange with strong rigid stem. Early July. 3½ Ft. stems.
- FIERY SUNSET** (Edna Kean x L. pumilum) x Seedling 761. The first of Robinson's excellent tall vigorous L. pumilum hybrids to be introduced. Vibrant orange red. Flowers pendant, small, with up to 35 on 4 Ft. stems.
- From Ross Martin, Binbrook, Ontario  
**AUTUMN LEAVES** (McFedran Sdlg. x Ginger). Light bronze-shrimp with pale coppary orange overtones and yellow centre. Out and upward facing flowers on 2½ Ft. stems. Foliage is a rich glossy green. Mid July.
- SPICED CUSTARD** (Elmira x Snow Bunting) Ivory yellow with a clear



yellow centre, outfacing flowers are speckled, brown pollen.  
3 Ft. stems produce up to 18 buds in early July.

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### LILY BOOKS & REFERENCE MATERIAL - A SOURCE

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Regional Lily Society (O.R.L.S.), it was decided that ORLS would designate the Library of the Royal Botanical Gardens as the official depository library for ORLS. All the material which had accumulated over the years was turned over, sorted, catalogued and incorporated into the collection. This consisted of some books on *Lilium*, nursery and seed trade catalogues, back issues of journals, bulletins, newsletters, etc. At the end of each year material will continue to be handed over to guarantee continuity. Through this co-operative measure, a considerable amount has been added to the literature on the genus *Lilium*.

Members in good standing of the ORLS can request any books from the RBG library by mail. Postage both ways is paid by RBG, since as an Institution we can take advantage of a special mailing rate for library material. The loan period is 4 weeks. Our journals are usually not sent out but xerox copies will be supplied upon request. If the number of pages to be xeroxed is substantial, there is a charge for this service. All requests should be directed to:

Royal Botanical Gardens Library,  
Box 399,  
Hamilton, Ont. L8N 3H8  
Tel.: 527-1158

Received from the Ontario Regional Lily Society, April 1979, for incorporation into the Library of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

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|------------------------|--|---|
| Beckett, K. A.         | The gardener's bedside book.               | Arco Publ. Co., NY,<br>1973.                |
| *Boucher, T.           | From my garden scrapbook.                  | T. Boucher, 1953.                           |
| *Cutting, A.B.         | Canadian home gardening the<br>year round. | Musson Book Co.,<br>Toronto, 1946.          |
| *de Graaf, J.          | The new book of lilies.                    | M. Barrows & Co.,<br>New York, 1951.        |
| Kains, M.G.            | Gardening short cuts.                      | World Publ. Co.,<br>New York, 1935.         |
| *Lemmon & Sherman      | Flowers of the world in<br>full color.     | Hanover House,<br>Garden City, NY,<br>1958. |
| *Macneil, A. & E.      | Garden lilies.                             | Oxford U. Press,<br>New York, 1946.         |
| *Maxwell, A.C.         | Lilies in their homes.                     | Collins, London,<br>1953.                   |
| McFarland, J.H. et al. | Garden bulbs in color.                     | J.H. McFarland Co.,<br>Harrisburg, 1945.    |



- Moldenke, H. American wild flowers. D. van Nostrand, New York, 1944.
- \*Peterson, G. The International Lily Register. RHS, London, 1960.
- \*Preston, I. Lilies for every garden. Orange Judd Publ. Co., NY, 1947
- \*Rockwell, G. & de Graaf. The complete book of lilies. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, 1961.
- Rodale, J.I. Pay dirt. Devin-Adair Co., New York, 1946.
- Shipovskaya, E.I. et al. Lilium. (Text in Russian) 1972.
- \*Slate, G.L. Lilies for American gardens. C. Scribner's Sons, New York, 1939.
- Twomey, K. A gardener's year. Arco Publ. Co., New York, 1973.
- Withers, R.M. Liliums in Australia. Australian Lilium Society, 1967.
- \*Woodcock, H. & W.T. Lilies of the world. C. Scribner's Sons, Stearn. New York, 1950.

\* - Duplicates for RBG Library

#### SERIALS

American Lily Year book. AHS.  
 Better Homes and Gardens.  
 Country estate magazine.  
 Flower Grower  
 Home Garden and Flower Grower  
 Horticulture.  
 The lily gazette. Wisc.-Ill. Reg. Group of the NALS.  
 The Lily Year Book. NALS.  
 The Lily Year Book. RHS.  
 North American Lily Society. Quarterly bulletin.  
 Popular Gardening.  
 Royal Horticultural Society. Journal.

#### NURSERY AND SEED TRADE CATALOGUES

Cruikshank, Toronto - Fall 1970, Spring 1973, Fall 1973, Fall 1974,  
 Spring 1977, Fall 1977, Fall 1978  
 Dominion Seed House, Georgetown - 1978  
 Ontario Seed Co., Ltd., Waterloo - 1979  
 McConnell Nursery, Port Burwell - 1979 Green Survival, 1978 Garden  
 catalogue  
 Sheridan Nurseries - 1971

A list of publications pertaining to lilies in the library of the Royal Botanical Gardens will be published in a future newsletter.



## The Development of Winter-Flowering Asiatics

By Charles Robinson,  
Erin, Ontario

The subject of this article is merely a continuation of a similar treatise I wrote for, and which appeared in, the 1979 Lily Yearbook of the N.A.L.S. In actual fact, it is intended to update the information contained in the Yearbook by providing facts about tests carried out during the past winter of 1979/80. I had carried out a somewhat similar test- although on a smaller scale- the previous winter but, of course, much more information was needed about the habits and reactions of asiatic lilies to the very variable winter environments of our homes. It must be remembered that houses vary considerably in temperature, humidity, as well as available daylight. Such conditions are very different from the precisely controlled environments of greenhouses used for the forcing of lilies, particularly in the amount of light, temperature, and humidity.

After deciding to embark on the program for the development of winter flowering asiatics, the first question I had to ask myself was "What measures would the average householder take if he or she acquired a handful of lily bulbs in the fall and, was told they could be flowered successfully indoors during the winter months". It was on this basis that the 1979/80 test was carried out. The following steps were taken;

**Step One** Fourteen bulbs, each different, were dug up on Oct. 1/79. Care was taken to preserve the root system. All had flowered the previous July. The bulbs selected for trial had a diameter of  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". The stems were cut off close to the bulb which were then washed free of all soil particles. They were then dusted with Captan and planted individually in 5" pots. In order to closely emulate the conditions such bulbs would be subjected to by the average gardener, I purchased some soil at a local store. It appeared to be a good medium fairly rich in humus. After potting, they were placed outdoors in a shady spot and kept reasonably moist at all times. During October the weather was reasonably mild.

**Step Two** On Nov. 15th, the pots were transferred to a cool place in the basement, the weather having turned quite cold with night frosts. Again, the soil was kept "barely moist". The reasons for this cold treatment were actually twofold; (1) to allow a reasonable period of time for the necessary dormancy period, and (2) to encourage the growth of new rootlets.

**Step Three** Having decided that the bulbs had passed through a reasonable dormancy period, the pots were brought upstairs on Dec. 5th and placed in a south-facing window in a spare room. At all times the temperature of the room varied between 65° and 68°F.

The southern exposure of this particular window was in no way detrimental to the lilies. During the previous winter I had grown a few asiatics in a north-facing window and they did exceptionally well. As it turned out, both exposures proved to be very satisfactory. In both cases- 1978/79 and 1979/80-- no artificial light was provided; the only light available was that coming through the windows. It still has to be determined what effect additional artificial lighting will have on lilies growing in, say, the living room of a house where, for several hours each day artificial light is necessary.



But let us return to the actual growing of the lilies. On Dec. 22nd, two shoots appeared-- on *L. pumilum* var. Golden Gleam and Golden Wonder, the latter being a selection from Golden Chalice. The following day Goldcrest and Ambassador appeared. From then on, the rest of the bulbs sent up stems at regular intervals. Most sent up single stems, but a few sent up two or three, which was surprising. The last stem appeared above the soil on Jan. 4th. During the growing period the plants were treated with Benlate on two occasions; a hand mist sprayer was used. This treatment-- to prevent botrytis--was proved to be very effective. No artificial fertilizer was given.

When the lily plants had reached the "large bud" stage, they were brought into the living room where the temperature is kept at approximately 72°F. during the day. In order to give the reader some idea of the performance of these asiatics, I will give a brief summary of each.

Golden Wonder, Goldcrest, and *L. croceum* failed completely. They emerged from the soil, grew quite normally for some time, then gave up the struggle and failed to produce any buds. However, a single performance by one bulb of each variety should not be regarded as a fair test. They will have to be given another test. I was somewhat surprised by the poor performance of *L. croceum* and Goldcrest (which is a *pumilum* hybrid) because both *L. croceum* and *pumilum* are good greenhouse subjects.

*L. pumilum* var. Golden Gleam flowered Jan. 25th and had a single stem with 9 flowers. It performed just as well as it does in the lily beds outdoors. Height 22". Its performance was rated Good.

Brown's Prairier Hybrid - This is a very old variety raised in Ont. being an asiatic - *L. philadelphicum* cross which seldom has more than 3 flowers on a ten inch stem. This bulb, however, produced 2 stems bearing 5 flowers, each about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. It flowered Feb. 16th, was ten inches tall and was rated Good.

Sdlg. 1973 (#1) This seedling is from the cross Byam's Ruby and Red Carpet. It flowered Feb. 25th, having two stems bearing ten flowers. Was slightly taller than when grown outside, but much the same overall. Height 18". Rated Good.

Ambassador. Flowered Feb. 26th, producing 3 stems bearing 13 flowers. Height 23". Rated Good.

Sunkissed. Flowered Feb. 25th. Single stem with 6 flowers. Height 14". Rates Fair to Good.

Sdlg. 1973 (#2) Same parentage as 1973(#1). Flowered March 4th. Had three stems with 12 flowers. Height 17". Rated Good.

Orange Light. Flowered March 6th with 2 stems bearing 5 flowers. Height 21". Performance rated only Fair but the colour was outstanding.

Lilac P.H. cross. Two seedlings were selected from a cross between a pink Pastel Hybrid and pink Sdlg. 1871. Both made an excellent showing, each having 6 flowers ( $4\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter). Height 20". Both rated Very Good. They flowered March 8th.

Sdlg. 2675. This light orange-red flowered March 8th. Height 19". Had 5 flowers  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " across. Could only be rated Fair.



Sdlg. 2971. Upfacing yellow which flowered on March 9th. Height 26". Had seven 6-6½" flowers. Could have rated Excellent, but with a height of 26" was far too tall.

### Observations and Suggestions

The above list will give the readers some idea of the variability of lilies relative to their suitability for indoor winter-flowering, and the necessity to isolate the better ones for use indoors or for a controlled breeding program. There is no doubt whatsoever that we will, in due course, be able to grow pre-selected asiatics during the winter months, and with far more success than with tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. The isolation process can be followed by a breeding program designed to produce a race of lilies having all the qualities of desirable pot plants--suitable height, an adequate number of buds, resistance to botrytis, good flower size and type, and what is very important, having colours which are most appealing during the drab months of winter. For instance, the two seedlings of 1973(#1 and #2) are both spotless dark reds, very attractive outdoors but much less appealing in the subdued light of winter in the house. This is my own personal taste and may not apply to others.

In the Ontario Regional Lily Society, we have many skilled lily breeders as well as top-notch cultivators, and it could well be that many may become keenly interested in this aspect of lily improvement. For those who are not interested in breeding there are many factors related to this subject we need to know and thoroughly understand. For instance--"can digging up the bulbs be delayed until Nov. 1st, or even later, and still give satisfactory results? What is the minimum period of time for dormancy? What are the maximum and minimum temperatures within which the lilies can be grown successfully?" And further experience may demand answers to other problems. In growing these winter-flowering lilies I did learn that the natural colours are quite fast, and much the same as when grown outdoors. However, it is a factor that breeders will have to watch for. I did pollinate three flowers just to see if it could be carried out successfully in mid-winter. To my surprise it was successful and I now have three fat pods to watch over. Another point of interest is the variability of asiatics in their sensitivity to light. It would appear that most are only slightly sensitive and do not bend towards the light very much, although a few are so sensitive that if not turned every two or three days the stems would assume the shape of a corkscrew. This is definitely a character breeders must take into consideration when selecting breeding stock.

Finally, a standard for winter-flowering pot grown lilies is necessary as a guide line for interested breeders. It is based on my own experiences, which are indeed limited. Future experience may well dictate changes. The ideal height is fifteen inches; taller plants will lack balance, particularly when the flowers are open and there is a large heavy head. Tall plants have a tendency to fall over because they become top-heavy, even without being disturbed. Upfacing lilies are undoubtedly the best and there should be six or seven blooms which are at least four inches across. The colours should be clean and clear. I found the dark reds were not very attractive indoors, being much too sombre during the dull months of winter. However, this was a personal viewpoint with which others may disagree. The stem should be strong and sturdy, and well clothed with broad, longish leaves which will completely hide the stem as well as the top of the pot. Such foliage is much more attractive than the narrow sparse type.



O.R.L.S. Treasurer's Report  
April 1, 1979 - March 31, 1980

(A) GENERAL ACCOUNT

Receipts:

Memberships & Advance Memberships	\$ 557.00
Misc. Sales (Books, benlate, stakes, donations, etc.)	691.63
Premium on American funds plus bank interest	50.92
Wintario Grant	1,331.00
Receipts from N.A.L.S. Show	7,110.64
Auction receipts	1,645.75
Total receipts	<u>\$11,386.94</u>

Expenses:

Deposited in Petty Cash	128.80
N.A.L.S. Show expenses	6,714.23
Rental of R.B.G. Auditorium in 1978	70.00
Rental of R.B.G. Work Shop for Auction	40.00
Wintario Grant Refunded	1,331.00
Newsletter expenses	515.00
Bulbs donated to Ottawa Experimental Station	115.50
Memorials and gifts	60.25
Cost of 500 "Observations of a Lily Breeder"	1,050.38
Cost of 1,000 printed membership cards	26.22
Misc. expenses (slides, postage, refreshments, etc.)	35.89
Bank Service Charge	4.00
Donations to R.B.G.	540.00
N.A.L.S. membership and donations plus American exchange	131.25
Transferred to Bonus Savings Account	1,000.00
Total expenses	<u>\$11,762.52</u>

Balance in Royal Bank Savings Account as at March 31/79	\$ 1,462.90
Receipts	<u>11,386.94</u>
Total	<u>\$12,849.84</u>
Less Expenses	<u>11,762.52</u>

Balance in Royal Bank Savings Account as at April 1/80	<u><u>\$ 1,087.32</u></u>
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(B) PETTY CASH ACCOUNT

Receipts:

Transferred from General Account	\$ 128.80
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Expenses:

Postage including advertising, N.A.L.S. Show	\$ 85.82
Admission tickets, N.A.L.S. Show	8.03
Misc. expenses (bookkeeping supplies, Xerox copies, etc.)	21.89
Long distance calls	8.19

Balance in Petty Cash as at March 31/79	\$ 14.79
Receipts	<u>128.80</u>
Total receipts	<u>\$ 143.59</u>
Less expenses	<u>123.93</u>
Balance in Petty Cash as at April 1, 1980	<u><u>\$ 19.66</u></u>

(C) BONUS SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Royal Bank)

Balance in Bonus Savings Account as at March 31/80	<u><u>\$ 3,061.28</u></u>
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Bernice Reid, Treasurer



## Canadian Popularity Contest

By T. Ross Martin,  
Binbrook, Ontario

I've just finished reading the June 1980 Quarterly bulletin of the North American Lily Society. Mary Wais has done her usual fine job of counting the ballots in the annual lily popularity poll. More than 30 cultivars are mentioned in the poll and of these, only "Red Knight" is a Canadian lily listed in the top nine.

I don't for one moment believe Canadians are developing inferior lilies but I do believe few lily growers north of the 49th parallel bother to submit their list in the NALS poll, and still fewer grow a wide range of Canadian lilies.

The Middle Atlantic Regional Lily Group Newsletter, The Marlin, brings to light the fact that Canadian lilies have won the Best in Show award for the past three years - a sure indication that there is lots of potential in our home-grown varieties.

Therefore, being somewhat of a devil's advocate, I will list my choice of the 10 best Canadian lilies. All are commercially available at reasonable to moderate prices. I've excluded some excellent new varieties and some older ones which I regret are not commercially available (Palmer's Mohawk, and Regina to name two). You may not agree and the newsletter welcomes your list of the best 10.

Lavish Lady  
Greatheart  
Embarrassment  
Red Knight  
Algoma  
Eden Fire  
White Princess  
Cayuga  
Garnet Lights  
Firebird

Hopefully such fine older lilies as Sundance, Regina, Starlite and Mohawk - all Dr. Frank Palmer originations will be resurrected by our commercial growers for redistribution. Dr. Palmer's decision to grow a new variety for many years before introducing it had in effect left us with many strong growers. Virus has taken its toll over the years but with to-day's technology to produce virus free stock we may yet see Starlite, Regina, Moonbeam and Sundance in the commercial catalogues. I truly hope so!

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REMINDER !      Fifteenth Annual Lily Show of the ORLS  
at the Royal Botanical Gardens Centre  
Saturday, July 19th, 1980      2 P.M. - 8 P.M.  
Sunday, July 20th, 1980      10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

If you can assist with this show, please show up at RBG Centre, and make your presence known. We need people to man the show, and others to man the door. Many containers need to be assembled, and filled with water also. I hope to see you there at the show. Maureen

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Seeds of *L. michiganense*, *L. canadense*, *L. superbum*, and *L. philadelphicum* is required by the Berry Botanic Garden, Portland, Oregon. See details in the Editor's Notebook. The foundation requests literature on lilies as well.