

THE SPECIES LILY

The Newsletter of the Species Lily Preservation Group
Affiliated with The North American Lily Society



Our Conservator, Edward McRae
Autumn 2004

SLPG GOALS

- * Growing as many species lilies as possible, especially those rare and in danger of extinction.
- * Making excess species bulbs available to members.
- * Collecting, preserving, planting, growing and distributing species seed.
- * Collecting all possible information on each species: its habitat, distribution, cultural needs, etc.
- * Disseminating cultural information on each species.
- * Assembling a slide and photo record of all species lilies.
- * Identifying areas where specific species grow and seeking protection for these areas.

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Author Table of Contents

William Hrubik, Ohio	4-5
John and Barbara Andrews, England	5-6
Jean Bawden, Wisconsin	6
Jack Benyon, England	6-7
Mary Belle Frey, Guatemala	7-8
Barbara Holland, Virginia	8-9
Chris Brickell, England	9
Laura Ann Brooks, Virginia	9
James Frye, Nevada	9-10
Lou Emmons, Illinois	10-11
Raymond Booth, England	11-13
Paul Hunter, Ontario	13-14
Bruce Richardson, British Columbia	14
Barry Francis, North Dakota	14-15
Caroline Jacobsen, Washington	15
Darm Crook, Northwest Territories	15-21
David Diller, Virginia	21-22
Marianne Casey, Virginia	22
Ted Sobkowich, Manitoba	22-23
Larry Diehl, Ohio	23-24
David Ross, Ohio	24
Mary Gaugert, Minnesota	24
Kathy Andersen, Delaware	24
Ed Soboczinski, Delaware	25
Art Evans., Arkansas	25
Darrel Roeder, Wisconsin	25
Diane Engelsdorfer, Missouri	25-26
Barbara Small, Nevada	26-27

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Ed McRae Awarded NALS Medal

Our mentor Ed McRae was unable to attend the general meeting of the Species Lily Preservation Group in St. Louis (summer, 2004). That absence gave us the opportunity to award the coveted NALS medal to our founder and present Conservationist. The NALS (North American Lily Society) medal is reserved for those who have contributed their knowledge, experience, time and passion for lilies. Ed actually received the medal during a meeting of the Pacific Northwest Lily Society this past fall, and, although surprised and greatly pleased, he was typically reserved, acting as if he has done nothing special. The following letters attest to the significant impact Ed has had on the species lily world. Each of us knows that without his carefully grown lily bulbs, we would be greatly lacking in such beauty.

It's Your Turn!

For many years, the SLPG has asked for reports concerning your lilies. These reports, both in letters to Ed McRae and to me, should help all of us do a better job selecting species lilies appropriate for our various climates. These climates range from the subtropics of Guatemala (Mary Belle Frey) to the Canadian Northwest Territory (Darm Crook) and should give us a very good idea what will or will not grow for us.

William Hrubik Ohio

I apologize for not informing you earlier of the results of the species bulbs received from you over the last several years. I was prompted to write because of June Taylor's encouragement to do so.

Here in Akron, Ohio, our soil is heavy clay, so I have to add humus of some sort and a little sand to the soil whenever I plant new

bulbs. My lilies grow in slightly shaded spots, but they do get four to five hours of sun daily.

The species that have done well are the following: *L. canadense*, *wardii*, *auratum*, *lankongense*, *martagon*, *martagon album*, *monadelphum* and *tigrinum*. They were all planted in the ground.

I planted *L. parryi* in a pot in 2000. It bloomed the next year, but I lost it — I believe because of too much moisture. The *L. rosthornii* and *L. taliense* bloomed but never came up the next year. The *L. primulinum* grew but never bloomed and then disappeared. The *L. parryi* was simply outstanding and is a favorite. I sure would like to try again to grow it IF it ever becomes available again.

The last few years I've planted new bulbs of all sorts in pots, enjoyed their blooms, and in the fall I planted them in the borders MINUS the pots. Been very successful.

My son Bill Jr. also grows some species and we truly support all of your efforts in the preservation of species lilies.

If I could ever secure one species to try, it would be *L. speciosum* var. *gloriosoides*. Do you know of a supplier? [Try Chen-Yi]

John and Barbara Andrews, England

We thought you would be pleased to know how well your lilies are growing here in Norfolk [in 2003]. On this narrow coastal strip the climate is similar to that in Holland and is warmer and drier than the rest of England.

The *L. wardii* lilies wandered from their planting positions – so carefully measured out by me – and crept towards your *L. speciosum* lilies – I will leave them to sort themselves out!

I had to seek advice about a systemic spray treatment against

mealy bugs on a new hedge. I was advised to use Provado made by Bayer Cropscience Group. It was very successful and I now see that this year they also claim it may be used against Lily Beetle. I have not as yet needed to try it for this purpose, but if the beetles do emerge here in April I will give it a trial. I wondered if Provado has been used in America?

Jean Bawden, Wisconsin

My *L. canadense* var. *coccineum* lilies have begun to colonize. The martagons have slowly increased. *L. taliense* var. *kaichen* was so beautiful that I wanted to cry when I saw it blooming for the first time. The *L. pumilum* have survived. The *L. monodelphum* that I got several years ago are so beautiful. *L. davidii* came through the winter and bloomed, as did *L. dauricum*. I loved *L. leichtlinii*. [Included with the letter, written in 2004, were eight beautiful photographs of lilies in the garden.]

Jack Benyon, England

This lily season [2003] has been a lot better than the last (which was not difficult).

Just a few comments: *L. auratum* good, *L. concolor* var. *coridion* good, *L. taliense* var. *kaichen* – all grew but only one flowered. None of Chen-Yi's did. *L. wardii* grew but only looked very unhappy. *L. leichtlinii* – 2 out of 3 grew and flowered – super plants five feet, citrine yellow, the same as *L. henryi* var. *citrinum*. I have some from J. Armand sold as *L. leichtlinii* but completely different – bright orange/yellow – I think it is a hybrid, possibly of *L. davidii*. I have saved the best news until last – the *L. canadense* var. *coccineum* were absolutely superb, the colours light, medium dark, downfaced, outfaced, upfaced! The darkest flower had the lightest coloured leaves. If I had the time (not much at 75) it would be nice to separate them.

On Chen-Yi – I have had quite a lot from her in the last few years

with very mixed results. ... I have a couple of *L. rosthornii* – they flower about two weeks after *L. henryi* but the two I have are different. One seems identical to *L. henryi*, but the other has triangular buds. I cannot remember what the capsules are like – they are just as legless (cannot stand on their own). I will try a few of hers again this year. I hear from Alan Hooker that she is plant collecting in Tibet until the middle of August and is expecting something new.

P. S. I certainly would be interested in *L. chalcedonicum* and *L. ciliatum* when they are ready.

Mary Belle Frey, Guatemala

My lily bulbs arrived here with my friend* this week [Nov. 7, 2003]. They are beautiful! Thank you very much and especially thank you for the extra *L. wardii* bulb. It has been at the top of my want list since it appeared on the back cover of 'The Species Lily'. I hope with[§] all these lilies to produce a little seed and in time to be able to select ones well adapted to this climate. The only lilies that are established in my garden are *L. candidum* and *L. longiflorum*. The rosettes of *L. candidum* never die back here, but I suspect that we have strains that have less substance than modern ones – to judge from photographs. But my *L. longiflorum* are wonderful – about 1.10 meters tall with thick, lush foliage and stems as strong as little trees. They normally have from eight to 11 buds. My greatest desire, now that I have *L. wardii*, is to acquire a half dozen seeds of *L. alexandrae* to add to this summer dormant group.

Of the seed I received from the NALS seed exchange and planted 6 July 2003, several were donated by you. You may be interested to know how they have prospered. I currently have husky plants of the following: Black Dragon, 14 plants; Golden Temple, 18 plants; *L. regale*, 17; *L. concolor* (early), 17; and *L. concolor* (late), 12. I was surprised to have some hypogeally germinating species send up true leaves without leaving my porch this sum-

mer. That opens up possibilities I had not previously hoped for. I love the smaller lilies (I could even say I hate big flowers!) and next year I hope to try some martagons and *L. japonicum* in particular if I can get some seed.

Thank you for your wonderful work in lily species preservation. You inspire me. I hope to be of use in preserving the more tender species, as I live below the frost level. I am starting slowly because I want to give whatever lilies I grow the best of care, so as to learn what lilies will love this climate and prosper here. I learned an immense amount about their needs and tolerances from this year's planting of 17 varieties. I will do better next year, God willing.

Barbara Holland, Virginia

I have grown *L. canadense* var. *rubrum*, *L. henryi*, *L. tsingtauense*, *L. speciosum* var. *rubrum*, *L. regale*, *L. superbum* and *L. lancifolium*. *L. speciosum* var. *rubrum* seems to be the happiest, while *L. henryi*, *L. regale* and *L. lancifolium* also grow well, the latter now having three good stems. *L. tsingtauense* is languishing because of where we planted it. I hope to change sites this fall.

I purchased three bulbs of *L. canadense* var. *rubrum* from SLPG in the fall of 2002. Three small stems came up but two died, most likely from *botrytis*. In May of 2004 the one remaining stem produced one bloom. The first year [2003] a rabbit ate the foliage of my *L. superbum*. I moved it in the fall to its new home where it produced a tall thin stem with four buds.

Everything I ordered and planted last fall bloomed this spring and summer. Two of *L. canadense* each had two blooms – the third wilted with all the rain we had this spring.

L. concolor early and late were delightful – however the resident bunny rabbit that we can't catch enjoyed every leaf and then had

the buds for dessert!

L. henryi var. *citrinum* had a weak stem that bent over when the three beautiful blooms opened. We supported it as best we could and I anticipate a wonderful stem next year. Each *L. henryi* had a single bloom.

I hate to complain about the rain since we were so parched last year with the drought. I fear that we lost several bulbs because the garden was bog-like/swampy at times.

Chris Brickell, England

Last year's bulbs have mostly performed very well, particularly *L. canadense* which is superb, probably the best spotted form I have ever seen. *L. rosthornii* has struggled but all the rest have been good. ... Many thanks again for your tremendous work in conserving the species.

Laura Anne Brooks, Virginia

Most of my species lilies have bloomed here in King William, Virginia, just east of Richmond.

The *L. dauricum* was towering in growth but all three cultivars were badly fasciated. *L. davidii* I took to the Garden Club of Virginia show where Ron Chiabotta talked about new advances in hybridization to new lily judges. Also I took to the VA show the *L. wilsonii* – rather droopy, but a clear form of that species. No ribbon on that one.

My *L. pardalinums* are not robust. Do they like shade? The *L. tsingtauense* and *L. concolor* bloomed earlier and were fine in our heavy clay that I amend greatly. Too early for shows, I am afraid.

James Frye, Nevada

I have a pot of *L. kelloggii* seedlings started, but only a few have

yet gotten beyond the seedling stage. In addition to *L. kelloggii*, I have *L. bolanderi*, *rubescens* and *washingtonianum* now sprouting from seeds planted last fall [2003], as well as some martagons from Reg Gallop, and some home-grown trumpet and OT seed.

From the previous fall's planting, I have *L. canadense*, *pardalinum*, *parryi*, *parvum*, *pitkinense*, *pumilum*, *speciosum*, *superbum* and *volmeri*, all of which have reappeared this spring. I also have *L. michauxii*, *philadelphicum*, *regale*, and *speciosum* var. *rubrum* that haven't shown yet. It's still early here – the daffodils are just hitting their stride – so I'm keeping my fingers crossed on them. Most of these are from the NALS seed list, the rest from other members of Linda Darnton's email list. ...

I don't do anything special for starting seeds. I don't have the time or energy for some of the more labor-intensive techniques I see people describe, so I just let nature take care of things. I scatter the seeds in pots of good seed starting mix and plant the pot outside in the fall, sunk into the ground so the mix inside is at ground level. If it's a dry winter, I may water them a couple of times, but that's the extent of the care they get until spring. Simple as it is, it seems to work surprisingly well for me, much better than the indoor methods.

P.S. Just noticed this morning that a couple of *L. philadelphicum* shoots have sprouted. Also I have what was sold as *L. kelleyanum* I'm a bit dubious about the ID. Your book describes it as yellow spotted and fragrant. This is orange spotted with small flowers like a mini-*pardalinum* and not fragrant.

Lou Emmons, Illinois

You asked us to report on our success with species lilies. I have ordered and tried to grow a number over the years with what I would consider good success for the most part. I didn't keep very good records, I'm afraid, so there are probably lilies out here I can't ID that came from you.

Early on I planted *L. concolor* and *L. davidii*. The former still looked good this year, but *L. davidii* did not. We had a very wet spring that I believe caused problems. But after six years or so, they are still here. The little *L. cernuum* in my rock garden was my favorite for years (three-four), but this year it looked so bad I moved it to a special bed. I know they are sometimes short lived, so I ordered it again.

I had *L. pumilum*, but I don't know where. However, *L. pumilum* 'Yellow Bunting' is very vigorous each year. *L. henryi* does well, as does *L. michiganense*, possibly because they are in fertile beds made to test plants. ... The *L. auratum* var. *platyphyllum* I ordered last year bloomed – not too tall, but young yet. As you know, I have the beautiful *L. wardii* which is completely reliable so far. My *L. speciosum* var. *rubrum* is in bloom right now [August, 2004] – the last of the lilies for this season. My biggest thrill were the *L. candidum* and *L. formosanum* var. *pricei* which I saw for the first time (in a garden) in bloom. I'm hoping they will prosper and like it here – so different.

I just can't seem to get any lilies to grow from seed – the *L. cernuum* seed from The Lily Garden was planted in my special bed, as were the *L. wardii* seed, but I see only one set of leaves and it could be something else – maybe one of these days I'll try scales!

Your book is my Bible for lilies and lilies are my favorites. Thanks for all your work on behalf of the Species Group.

Raymond Booth, England

I must start by thanking you for the excellent bulbs you sent me back in October [2001]. They arrived in perfect condition and were soon potted safely – with a slight delay to allow the lady from the Plant Health Inspectorate to examine them. This was a perfunctory business, as usual, as her usual job entails examining sugar beet for virus or chrysanthemums for rust and mildew, etc. She knows nothing about lilies, but she looked at them and made

off with the phyto certificate and so now I and the law were both satisfied!

It was especially kind of you to include the *L. brownii* form. The only time I have ever seen this species in flower was a very long time ago indeed – in the mid-1950s, soon after I began to take notice of lilies. I bought a couple of bulbs of the Dutch clone, which they propagated in some quantity then. It was very beautiful, the perfect trumpet form and I was deeply impressed by it. But – like pretty well everyone else – I found it too difficult to maintain for long and it was soon lost. I wonder what happened to stop propagating that clone? I expect disease [?] finally had the last word.

I did obtain bulbs of *L. brownii* last year – a modern import from China. But as they grew, it became obvious that they were wrongly named. In fact, they turned out to be *L. regale* and I was very pleased indeed to see that they were the genuine ‘wild’ form, quite unlike the things accepted here as *L. regale*. The leaves were exceedingly narrow, as in the original description, and the flowers of truly wonderful shape – truly trumpet form. The usual ones seen here are inferior things – the flowers lacking firmness of shape, and the leaves invariably much broader – sometimes almost like *L. sargentiae* leaves. Generations of seed growing in cultivation have doubtless allowed a species ‘drift,’ away from the original wild form, growing in quite different conditions from those found in our gardens.

The plants grown from the bulbs you sent last year did well this summer. The ‘Tiger Lilies’ were impressively vigorous, tall, with plenty of flowers. Clearly very healthy! *L. rosthornii* grew and flowered well – very nice to see at last a long-known name ‘in the flesh.’ *L. taliense* var. *kaichen* was quite wonderful – grew strongly and very handsome. And it solved a little problem. For a year or two I have had a lily obtained from Paul Christian, the North Wales nurseryman. He offered it as *L. xanthellum* var. *luteum*. But it grew tall and strong – unlike any description I have

seen of *L. xanthellum* var. *luteum* – and was quite clearly a form of *L. taliense*. Growing it and your var. *kaichen* side by side showed them to be identical! So I have now a very nice stock of var. *kaichen* – long may it thrive!

[Second letter] I hesitated a long time before deciding after all to ask for some more [bulbs] this year [2003]. The passing years – so many have gone by – take their toll, and gardening becomes an ever-more difficult and slow business. But then I thought -- just one more new batch of bulbs so that if my gardening days do come abruptly to an end I'll go out surrounded by lilies! ...

Brief comments: Do you know of *L. wenshanense*? If you have not come across this – it seems to be a bit obscure – I can report it to be a really beautiful white trumpet lily. Long flowers, stained a little off-white on the backs of the outer segments, inside pure white with a delicate green in the throat. Pollen very dark indeed. So far, they have produced only one flower per stem – four feet high. Seems not to be difficult in a pot and is highly desirable.

So many lilies did well this year – your bulbs of *L. canadense* were quite splendid and even *L. callosum* did well (I normally find it surprisingly difficult).

Paul Hunter, Ontario

Thanks ever so much for last year's order. The bulbs were all of superb quality and all grew and flowered very well this past summer [2004]. If *botrytis* doesn't destroy all my plants (this has been one of the wettest summers on record – rain nearly every day!), then I should be able to put a good selection of seed up in this year's seed exchange. Incidentally, I've had great luck with your seed also and I have many hundreds of plants at different stages of development at present. *L. parryi* from the exchange a few years ago should flower next year! If I have time, I will write you a more detailed account of the lilies that I grow here in the Niagara region (zone 6). The area seems quite amenable to lily

cultivation and I grow a wide selection of species including some alpines as well as a few primulas.

Bruce Richardson, British Columbia

Regarding my garden and its species lilies – The clump of *L. canadense rubrum* continues to expand and seems very happy in its sandy loam with very little extra water – just a squirt or two after blooming when it's very dry. *L. wardii* is moderately vigorous and bloomed nicely. *L. langkongense* is very happy and floriferous. *L. wilsonii* grows like a weed – *L. pardalinum* another weed. *L. taliense* has departed after two years of decline. It, too, was in well-drained sandy loam, planted relatively deep, but never seemed happy.

Barry Francis, North Dakota

I have acquired seed from a local population of *L. philadelphicum* var. *andinum* which was growing about 15 miles north of Bismark, North Dakota (or about two miles northwest of Baldwin, ND). ...

Plants are growing in poor-looking sandy soil with weathered sandstone present. Local soils are alkaline. Normal precipitation is about 12 inches ← much less during periods of drought. Winter temps reach -45° F. Summer temps often get into the 100s. Historical extremes for the state are -60° to 120° F. (both set in 1936!). The location is about three miles east of the Missouri River. More pictures of the plant and the local area can be found at the web site www.prairiejournal.com. This is the web site of Lyndon Anderson, a local photographer, who showed me the plants on his dad's farm.

[Regarding seed sent to Ed McRae] The vial of seed has over 200 seeds in it – perhaps 250. Each slim seedpod had about this many seeds and basically no chaff. I was surprised to find any seed at all as the only rain we got all summer was in June ... The rest of

the summer was hot and windy with temps normally in the 90°-100° + range all summer. Pods were collected from plants that were drying up in the third week of August. This was not a normal year!

Caroline Jacobson, Washington

Just a note to tell you how much I appreciate your lilies. They have all grown well with the exception of *L. bakerianum*. My fault – I planted it in soil that did not drain well enough.

[Caroline enclosed several pictures and described her healthy-looking lilies.]

- 1 *L. canadense* var. *coccineum*: sunny site
- 2 *L. henryi* var. *citrinum*: growing in shade
- 3 *L. rubellum*: sun, stayed outside in a pot all winter and bloomed really well
- 4 *L. leichtlinii*: growing in shade. All of the above are growing in pots, but I plan on preparing two new sites when the weather cools down.
- 5 *L. bulbiferum* which I grew from seed
- 6 *L. concolor*: also from seed
- 7 *L. wardii*: bloomed in shade in a pot
- 8 *L. rosthornii* hasn't bloomed yet, but it looks good – also in shade in a pot

P.S. I have a pot of *L. bolanderi* seeds purchased ... last year. Seed planted 2/03 – germinated and left in the greenhouse where temps must get 100°. Still green and I sure don't water that!

Darm Crook, Northwest Territories

In 2000 I purchased a few bulbs from the SLPG, and I noticed in the winter 2003 newsletter you requested feedback on bulbs received from the SLPG. Hopefully the information I provide

will help some. I don't know that the summer of 2003 is a good one to evaluate them by, but I will submit a brief report anyway.

Firstly, 2002 was the fall I received them a bit late for planting here. When planting them I went through two inches of snow and soil with one inch of frost on its surface. Secondly, 2002/2003 was a poor winter for lily bulbs. We received around 18 inches of snow. Then just before Christmas we had a four-day thaw that knocked the snow cover down to about eight inches, and that snow was water-saturated. It then turned cold, in the mid to low minus 30s C. and remained that way for at least three weeks. At the end of that cold snap we received another eight inches of snow and that was it for our winter snowfall. Normally we receive 24 to 30 inches of snow per winter. It is a very light fluffy type that does not get packed as the boreal forest prevents the wind from doing so. This year we received 28 to 30 inches of snow – a very good blanket. We generally do not receive our first damaging frosts until very late September or the first week in October and have snow cover to stay by mid October – in any event never later than October 31st. When we receive the first snow, our soil usually has about one inch of frost on its surface. Thus I suspect that the frost takes quite some time to reach the depth of the bulbs.

Growing Zone – Canadian scale:

My area is rated as zone one, but I believe they have it a bit low. The readings to develop the zone rating were taken in a valley about eight miles south of me. In that valley they freeze down at least a week sooner than here and continue to get frosts in the spring at least a week later. Plus the winter temperatures are always 5° C. or more colder than here. My belief is that my lily beds are about a zone rating of 1.5 Canadian scale.

Soil conditions:

Five feet down we have hardpan (Potters clay) which water does not penetrate but does not collect either. On top of that we have a foot of coarse gravel that actually works as a weeping tile system

and drains surface water from around here into the Hay River and Great Slave Lake. Above the gravel is four feet of very sandy loam silt. This area is part of the Great Slave Lake's boreal forest. For all my lily beds I add another ten inches of our natural topsoil. So far very little fertilizing has been needed, and that only for some that are extremely heavy feeders. For lilies such as *L. amabile* and *L. oxypetalum* as well as others, I amend the soil by the addition of lime – they are grown in a self-contained bed dedicated to alkaline loving lilies as well. The lime leaches out and requires replacement from time to time.

Planting and selection method:

All mature lily bulbs I plant eight to ten inches deep to the top of the bulb. Some I mulch: those are bulbs that come from species whose natural growing range does not extend at least to a 4,000 foot elevation, or into Europe. I will try to grow any species whose natural growing range extends to an elevation of 3,000 feet – some survive and some do not. A lot depends on their flowering time. Due to our short growing season, any late-flowering lily does not have time to properly senesce here and that, in my opinion, has more to do with their failure to survive than the winter itself does.

L. canadense: ordered three bulbs and got six, and in those six there were three different forms. They grow where they get sun from 2 a.m. until 1 p.m. – then the rest of the day, while the sun is at its hottest, they are in shade.

- 1 Form 1: orange and yellow. This one performed excellently. It actually put out two sets of umbels and reached a height of four feet. This form is the only one that flowered early enough to set viable seed.
- 2 Form 2: pure yellow. This one did OK, reaching four feet with one umbel of five flowers. It did catch *botrytis*. It flowered a week and a half behind the first form.
- 3 Form 3: deep brick red. This one performed the poorest – the stem was somewhat on the weak side. It reached four feet and had three flowers that opened three weeks behind

the first form. It also got *botrytis*.

L. cernuum: These three bulbs never sent up a plant. I left them alone; they will probably grow this coming year. *L. cernuum* is hardy here as I do grow it. I ordered these to supplement the very limited gene pool I currently grow.

L. concolor (early form) did excellently. It flowered a good three weeks ahead of the *L. concolor* I already have growing here.

L. concolor var. *coridion* also did very well, flowering five days behind the early form.

L. callosum: This lily never put up a plant. I realize it is not considered a cold-hardy lily, but I am trying it once more.

L. wilsonii: I already grow *L. wilsonii* and its variety *flavum*. They flower very late for me and have settled into a routine of flowering every second year, producing only two flowers and some years only one. I have been consistently told by other lily growers that *L. wilsonii* is an early-flowering lily, so I thought maybe the SLPG *wilsonii* bulbs would be one of these. No such luck. I suspect it is being confused with *L. dauricum*. The bulb from the SLPG grew, reaching a height of 16 inches, but it was weak and produced one flower at the same time as my other *L. wilsonii* – late August.

L. dauricum: This lily performed excellently. It only reached a height of 12 inches but had five buds per stem. It set seed from three various crosses: *L. wilsonii* var. *flavum*, another *dauricum* variety I grow here (which gets about 20 inches tall and is a light orange with no red overlay and spotted) and *L. dauricum* from the SLPG. All three of these crosses germinated some albino seedlings. I still have one growing (see attached information sheet on it). [See below.]

L. amabile var. *luteum*: It grew well with no evident problems, but it does not look right to me. It flowered as a 1b, yellow with maroon spotting. I grow another form of this variety – it is a 1c, full turkscap form, yellow with black spotting.

L. lankongense: It grew not too badly, reaching a height of three feet with only two buds per stem. I suspect it will improve as I do grow other *lankongense* that reach over four feet with up to 12 buds per stem.

L. leichtlinii: They grew, but not too well, reaching three feet on weak stems with three buds. They flowered about three weeks behind the ones I already grow. I also expect this one to improve as I grow a couple of other stems of *L. leichtlinii* that reach five feet with up to 16 buds per stem. I thought mine were both the same cultivar as in past years I never got seed from crossing them. This year I did.

L. wardii: This one did poorly. It came up reaching 18 inches and had one bud that flowered late. The stem was too weak to support it in flower. I expect to lose it this winter.

As I said in the opening of this report, these lilies had the odds stacked up against them. Given just a bit better planting and first-year watering conditions would have been a more realistic test. ...

I wish to thank you for the extra effort you made on my behalf when shipping my 2003 bulb order. It arrived in late September, a perfect time for planting. I expect much better results from them this coming summer as we had had no frosts by planting time. Thus the soil was reasonably warm, and the bulbs would have had some time to start putting their root system into place before the frost came and eventually got down to where they are planted. Come this fall I'll give you a full report on the above lilies as well as a second report on the ones received in 2003.

L. dauricum — albino — 2003-2004

All the albino seedlings that have germinated are from one *L. dauricum*. It was purchased from the SLPG in 2002 and grew to a height of 12 inches in 2003. As I had purchased three bulbs, I chose to try for seeds from one plant the first year they were growing/flowering in my garden. Usually I don't leave a lily to set seed the first year it grows in my garden. One pod was pollinated with pollen from another of the SLPG bulbs — two with pollen from another variety of *L. dauricum* (orange, no red overlay, spotted, 20" tall) that I have grown here for quite some time; and two with pollen from *L. wilsonii* var. *flavum*. All five pods commenced to plump up, so I deadheaded one pod from each

cross where two pods were pollinated. I limit seed production to a maximum of three pods per stem. Good seed count was obtained from the SLPG and *L. wilsonii* cross and a few from my old *L. dauricum* variety cross. The seeds were planted on November 7th, 2003.

On December 18th an albino germinated from seed of the cross where both parents were SLPG bulbs. The leaf was totally white. On December 31st, 2003, this seedling put up a second leaf; it had a slight cream tinge to it. The first leaf died on January 2nd, 2004. By this time the second leaf's cream tinge had turned to a very light green tinge. The first leaf had grown fast and reached a height of 1.5" before dying. As of January 9th, 2004, this albino's second leaf was still growing and had a very light green coloring. On January 11th, 2004, the seedling damped off. End of story for this one.

On December 24th, 2003, a normal seedling germinated in the pot with the first albino. Then on December 25th, 2003, a second albino germinated; it had a slight cream tinge. As of January 9th, 2004, it was still growing at a rate equal to the normal seedling. January 14th: this albino is finished. End of story.

On December 9th and 11th, 2003, two normal seedlings germinated from the cross between the SLPG lily and my old *L. dauricum*. On December 14th, 2003, an albino germinated from this cross. It had a very slight cream tinge to it. As of January 9th this albino was still growing, albeit very slowly. It had only doubled in height where all the other seedlings in this pot had tripled. January 17th: this albino is finished. End of story.

Between December 9th and 20th, 2003, three normal seedlings germinated from the cross between the SLPG bulb and *L. dauricum* var. *wilsonii*. On December 2003 an albino germinated. It has a very, very faint cream tinge to it. It is growing fast and has reached a height of 1.5" as of January 9th, 2004: however, it is showing some signs of stress. I have centered it better

under a light; this albino is now ten inches from and directly under a 40 watt fluorescent tube. By January 22nd, 2004, the albino seems to have recovered from its stress and is growing nicely. January 27th: the cream tinge has taken on more of a yellow cream appearance. January 30th: still doing well and no change.

By February 2nd, 2004, 35 days after germination, the albino has started to develop small light green dashes (grains) running parallel to the leaf height. They look gray to the eye, but the green stands out well under a magnifying glass. It hasn't increased in height but the leaf has broadened out a bit. February 12th, 2004: no real change in the albino seedling; the green dashes have not increased but they may have intensified a bit in that they do have a gray-green look to them by the naked eye.

February 21st, 2004: the albino has grown a bit and the leaf has widened out to compare with the other normal seedlings in the pot. The green dashes/grains have darkened to the point that they are clearly green to the naked eye. The majority of the seedling is a cream color, and the green dashes/grains have not increased in number but have increased in size proportionately to the seedling's growth. The green covers approximately 1/8th of the leaf's surface. Three additional normal seedlings have now germinated in this pot. March 8th, 2004: the seedling is 1.625" tall by 3/16" wide. The green dashes/grains have not increased in number or size or darkened any further. The seedling is starting to lean. March 21st, 2004: the seedling has grown a bit more to 1.75" and has leaned to directly display the leaf's surface to the light from the fluorescent bulb. Still looking healthy!

David Diller, Virginia

I have had a number of species for at least eight years. Current and recent lilies are *L. amabile*, *canadense*, *candidum*, *cernuum*, *concolor*, *davidii*, *hansonii*, *henryi*, *leichtlinii*, *leucanthum* var. *centifolium*, *longiflorum*, *martagon* (*album* and *standard*), *pardalinum*, *pumilum*, *rosthornii*, *rubellum*, *superbum*, *tigrinum*,

tsingtauense and *wilsonii*. Some are persistent but don't do very well while others prosper, probably because they like the soil. *L. rubellum* came up and flowered the year after planting. That's the last I've seen of it. The soil may have been too alkaline and the plants might not have had enough shade.

Marianne Casey, Virginia

I'm not sure how well my two new species lilies will do yet. We have very high humidity and heat. Other lilies that do not survive were affected by too much wet soil this winter [2003]. Slugs are a problem too.

I purchased two *L. majoense* bulbs from Wayside Gardens this spring. They advised me that the bulbs might not bloom this year and that their appearance would be small and somewhat dry looking. I planted one in the ground (prepared a hundred dollar hole for a twenty dollar bulb), and planted one in a clay pot. Both soils were equal parts peat, potting mix and a dark mulch. The one in the pot is a foot tall and very strong. After a few weeks of wandering about below the surface of the soil, the bulb planted in the ground broke through and has a nice stem and several leaves. This bulb may not be happy where it is, and in the fall I may move it to a less shady place. Presently it has full sun in the afternoon and evening. Perhaps morning and afternoon sun will be more agreeable.

The *L. pardalinum* I just purchased in June from a reputable nursery that makes available select lilies. The lily has three blooms and is two and a half feet tall now.

Ted Sobkovich, Manitoba

I [now] live in zone 2b and the lily that grows the very best here is *L. lancifolium* var. *splendens*, growing in clay in sandy ground. Others that do well here are *L. martagon*, *dauricum*, *henryi*, *wilsonii*, and *lankongense* which has greatly increased in size over

three to four years. It's now four feet tall with 15 to 20 flowers.

L. amabile, *L. amabile* var. *luteum*, *L. leichtlinii* and *L. leichtlinii* var. *maximowiczii* grow very slowly and have not increased very quickly. After three years *L. amabile* has only two stems. *L. leichtlinii* var. *maximowiczii* moves around in the garden. *L. canadense* lived two years in zone 3b, but I'm not sure how it will do in zone 2b.

Other species lilies have lasted a short time only. *L. concolor* grew for only three years, probably because of the climate. *L. cernuum* and *L. taliense* each lasted only two years, probably because of the culture and the small bulb size. *L. taliense* received too much shade and not enough water. *L. michiganense* did not survive the second winter, probably due to culture and climate. *L. pardalinum* never came up in the spring after a fall planting. *L. taliense* var. *kaichen* survived in a pot stored in a cold room, grew and bloomed and then died, probably because of the culture. *L. formosanum* was not hardy enough for this climate.

My lilies get no special protection/covering except snow. I will try many again but make sure that they have better soil and culture.

Larry Diehl, Ohio

Throughout the last 10-20 years I have grown *L. canadense*, *pumilum*, *pardalinum*, *cernuum*, *superbum*, *speciosum*, and those discussed below. Those that do well are tough, tolerant of clay soil and wide temperature/climate fluctuations. These include *L. henryi*, *L. sargentiae* and *L. regale*. If my soil is not amended it is wet, gray clay. I build up raised beds or use pots. All my soil is now depleted and must be eventually amended. Lilies such as *speciosum* which 20 years ago grew well now seem to give up after a few years. I planted *L. nepalense* in a pot, overwintered it in the garage, but it got too much moisture. It came up the following spring, produced a single bud and collapsed and died be-

fore the bud opened.

David Ross, Ohio

I grow *L. henryi*, *regale*, *canadense*, *michiganense*, *hansonii*, and *pardalinum* var. *giganteum*. These all do well because my climate, humidity and soil are closest to ideal. *L. pardalinum* is especially easy to grow in my area, increasing well with no special care. I grew *L. nepalense* in pots. The two bulbs grew well the first year, but by the start of the second year there was only one bulb left. It disappeared during the second year, but I don't know why. I watered it and fertilized it before blooming and kept it dry after blooming.

Marcy Gaugert, Minnesota

The lily that grows best for me is *L. michiganense* because the climate is like the near Canadian border from which it came. I have grown it for five years in humus, clay-like forest grown soil.

Kathy Andersen, Delaware

I have grown *L. canadense*, *humboldtii*, *wardii*, *superbum*, *michiganense*, *phildalpicum*, *leichtlinii* var. *maximowiczii*, *pumilum*, *parvum*, *sulphureum*, *sargentiae*, *speciosum*, *speciosum* var. *gloiosoides*, *regale*, *longiflorum*, *leucanthum*, *nepalense*, *lankongense*, *concolor*, *tsingtauense*, *martagon album*, *hansonii*, *henryi*, and *rosthornii*. Those that have done especially well are *L. canadense* because it receives enough water and dryland shade, *L. michiganense* which is happy in a sunny location with mulch, and *L. hansonii* which I have grown for 30 years under some shade with cool roots. *L. henryi* and *L. sargentiae* are also happy here.

L. wardii, *parvum* and *humboldtii* don't like it in my climate which is too hot in the summer.

Ed Soboczenski, Delaware

I have grown *L. henryi*, *L. speciosum* (several forms), *L. superbum*, *L. sargentiae*, *L. longiflorum* and *martagons*, but *L. henryi* grows the best for me, probably because of the climate, zone, humidity and soil. Because of the heat, *L. taliense* and *L. nepalense* died.

Art Evans, Arkansas

Over the years I have tried quite a few species lilies, but lately I have concentrated mostly on Chen Yi introductions. In my 6a zone, *L. leucanthemum*, *L. henryi* and *L. superbum* grow well. Which lilies were a big flop? There are too many to list. *Botrytis*, *fusarium*, intolerance of temperature and soil differences from the original habitat are all to blame. My place has

- * Hot summers (two or three weeks around 100° F.)
- * Mild winters (seldom down to zero° F.)
- * Clay soil over a limestone base
- * Late frosts
- * Many old hybrids which harbor/carry virus, *botrytis* and *fusarium* and other soil pathogens like *rhizoctonia*
- * No new soil where lilies have not grown before
- * Elevation 1120 feet.

Darrel Roeder, Wisconsin

I grow *L. davidii*, *tsingtauense*, *wilsonii*, *dauricum*, *lankongense*, *concolor*, *pumilum*, *pumilum* 'Yellow Bunting,' *bulbiferum*, *superbum*, *canadense*, and *michiganense* outdoors. *L. bulbiferum* grows the best because of the sun cover. *L. henryi* is not happy here, probably because it comes out in early April. I grow *L. superbum*, *sargentiae*, *nanum*, *bakerianum* and several others in pots.

Diane Engelsdorfer, Missouri

The lilies that bloomed for me this year are *L. davidii*, *superbum*,

tsingtauense, *canadense*, *pardalinum* and *wilsonii* var. *flavum*. *L. davidii* and *L. pardalinum* do especially well, even with neglect. I leave them alone and plant perennials around them. I use a lot of tufus to improve drainage. It's usually too hot for orientals — *L. speciosum* lasts only about three or four years. *Martagons* also last a few years and then disappear. *L. rubellum* grew, flowered, then turned yellow and died. The bulb rotted. I have tried to grow *L. superbum* but it does not like me or my yard and the bulbs just sit there until they disappear. I have also tried to grow

- * *L. pumilum* (two or three years)
- * *L. amabile* (two or three years)
- * *L. lankongense* (two years)
- * *L. cernuum* (two years)
- * *L. formosanum* (one year)
- * *L. longiflorum* (one year)
- * *L. nepalense* (zero)
- * *L. philadelphicum* (zero)

Barbara Small, California and now Nevada

Fair Oaks is in zone nine, and most species lilies need a fair amount of shade and lots of water to keep them from burning up in the summer. Like many of the other people who wrote about their various species, I found *L. henryi* to be exceptional except that the stems were often weak, sometimes growing almost sideways to reach for the sun. They multiplied by the hundreds. I later imported some from Chen Yi which had much stiffer stems. Lilies which like cold winter weather (*L. martagon*, *amabile*, *pumilum*, *duchartrei*, *lankongense*, *leichtlinii*, *nepalense*, *primulinum* and *taliense*) usually grew weaker and weaker until they disappeared entirely. The one *L. martagon* type — *L. tsingtauense* — actually seemed to thrive in pots under the shade of large redwood trees. I even had one poor *L. martagon*, obviously confused by the warm weather, bloom a second time, opening its buds during Christmas!

The West coast lilies *L. pardalinum*, *L. parryi*, *L. pitkinense* and *L. shastense* were very happy in zone nine. I gave them lots of

water along with very well draining soil and placed their pots in filtered shade. Although *L. humboldtii* and *L. parvum* grow comparatively close by, they don't like zone nine. I did, however, use their pollen in my breeding program, and the offspring seemed very happy there. *L. parvum* in particular is a great pollen parent — its progeny blooming in only three years rather than the usual seven.

Those species lilies which apparently came from climates with warmer winters (*L. philippinense*, *L. formosanum* var. *pricei*, *L. sulphureum*, *L. speciosum* var. *gloriosoides* and *L. bakerianum*) also didn't survive past the first year — I may have given them too much water after they bloomed. I failed with *L. rubellum* as well. The plants bloomed weakly, turned brown and disappeared, never to be seen again.

Now we live in the Reno, Nevada area at 5,000 feet elevation with VERY low humidity. It's called the high desert. The soil, which felt so wonderful during the summer when we chose the building site, turns to sticky, slippery clay when it's wet. In the fall of 2003, I planted the Fair Oaks lilies (which had been in five gallon pots with well-draining soil) in huge holes in the clay — but at the edge of a slope. They all survived, and the local mule deer (larger than the normal kind) didn't even find them. This past fall I moved them once again into raised beds with good soil. We have a deer/bunny proof fence in the back for the special species (*L. martagon* and the West coast lilies), but the other lilies will have to fend for themselves against the animals. My West coast species and hybrids seem to like it here, and my daughter gave me a huge clump of *L. parryi* as a housewarming present. So that you can visualize the local terrain, when the war in Afghanistan began, my husband called for me to come see the television shots of that country. 'Look,' he said, 'There's our lot!' Now I'll be able to grow those wonderful lilies that like cold winters (we shoveled eight feet of snow these past ten days). I especially want to grow lots of *martagons* as well as *L. monadelphum*, *ledebourii*, and similar species.



L. taliense var. *kaichen*



L. wilsonii

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