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DIGEST OF BOOKS, BULLETINS, CIRCULARS, AND ARTICLES USEFUL TO NORTHWEST LILY GROWERS

by Frank P. McWhorter

There appear to be no books which deal specifically with commercial lily bulb production. A complete list of books for lily growers would therefore include books on soil fertility and general cultural practices applicable to bulbs. The general books on lilies and bulbs are useful to the commercial lily grower in that they are the tools whereby he can become familiar with the varieties, their uses, and with the problems of the florists and home growers from whom he must derive his trade. The following list is by no means complete, but it does cite certain of the more useful sources of information. Information on publishers and prices of the books may be had by writing to your nearest public or State library. Most of the books, except those listed as available only in libraries, can be purchased through your nearest book dealer.

A. Books and publications on soils and soil types:

1. SOIL SURVEY REPORTS OF COUNTIES. (Obtainable through your county agent's office.)

2. THE MEANING AND VALUE OF THE WILLAMETTE SOIL SURVEY. (Oregon Station Circular No. 60.)


B. Books on general plant propagation: There are numerous books on this subject. One of the most useful, from an ornamental plant grower's viewpoint is PRACTICAL PLANT PROPAGATION, by Professor A. C. Hottes.

C. The following books deal entirely with lilies. Those under this section (C) can be readily obtained from general book dealers.


This little book of 92 pages published primarily as a catalog remains one of the most useful books on lilies anywhere available. It contains concise descriptions and excellent colored illustrations of the varieties preferred by the garden trade.

2. GARDEN CINDERELLAS, by Helen M. Fox, 1928.

This book of 269 pages is written in popular style primarily for the home gardener and may seem rather primary to the seasoned commercial grower. To the beginner, however, it can be quite useful. The manuscript was read by Ernest Wilson, and this adds authority to the 100 or more pages describing the lilies of the world now in cultivation.
3. LILIES AND THEIR CULTURE IN NORTH AMERICA, by Wm. N. Craig. 1928.

This book is not considered so useful as the two above. Its chief value lies in the quality of its illustrations.


This book is the authority on oriental lilies. For the advanced grower who has diversified plantings, the book is invaluable but it is too technical to be of much use to beginners. Earnest Wilson is the person who discovered the now famous Regal lily.

5. LILY YEAR BOOK - 1932. (Published by the Royal Horticultural Society of England. To obtain, send money order for 60 cents to the Society at Vincent Square, Westminster, S. W. London.)

An important contribution describing the sources, uses, habits and varieties of lilies found in the trade.

6. LILIES, by H. S. Adams. 1913

A small book written from the home gardener viewpoint, but quite useful.

D. Books on lilies which are not readily available, but which can be obtained from, or referred to, in the larger libraries.


This monograph, while technical, is at the same time a work of art. It is still the basis of the classification of the genus Lilium. Lily growers, who happen to have access to some of the larger libraries, may peruse this book with profit.

2. NOTES ON LILIES AND THEIR CULTURE, by A. Wallace. (2nd edition, published 1879.)

Dr. Griffiths considers this one of the most useful books ever published on lilies.

3. LILIES, by A. Grove, 1911.

4. LILIES FOR ENGLISH GARDENS. 1901.

Numbers 3 and 4 are useful in that they present the viewpoint of English gardeners.

E. Books on bulbs and related subjects which contain general information on lilies and which are readily obtainable through bookstores.

1. BULBS FOR AMERICAN GARDENS, by John C. Wister. 1930.

This book contains much general information and is especially useful in that it lists and describes a large number of the horticultural varieties used by the trade. It is the most modern general book on bulbs.
2. THE BOOK OF BULBS, by F. F. Rockwell, 1927.

Rockwell's book is popular with home gardeners and may therefore prove a source of ideas to the commercial growers.


This is not a book on lilies but it discusses the uses of lilies in relation to other plants. It is an important book in that it indicates some of the things a producer must strive for to meet the requirements of the better gardens.

F. General articles on lilies:

1. EASTER LILIES FROM SEED, by Isabella Preston, in report of the Dominion (Canada) Horticulturist, 1922. This author has written several articles on growing lilies of different kinds from seeds. Among these articles are those in The Florist Review for December 15 and 25, 1924; Garden and Home Builder, September, 1927.


   This contains general information on the lilies of California.

3. SEEDLING LILIES, Dr. A. B. Stout, Journal of the N. Y. Botanical Garden, July, 1924.

G. The following bulletins and circulars deal chiefly with lily propagation. Most of them are still available for distribution.


   This bulletin has been replaced by the next one listed, but it is worth reading, since it shows only too clearly what will happen to a lily planting of this type if virus diseases are not controlled.


   This bulletin and the preceding advocates the starting of longiflorum plantings from seeds.


   Very useful to Northwest growers. Earnest Wilson discovered the Regal lily and brought it to this country, but Dr. Griffiths propagated it and initiated our present Regal Lily industry.

This bulletin is very useful but many of our growers have found the title misleading in that the commercial propagation of some of these lilies has proven difficult because of the inroads of disease.


This circular may be considered a summary of Dr. Griffiths studies on lily propagation.

7. SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER REGALS, by Dr. Frank P. McWhorter. (Oregon Experiment Station mimeographed Circular of Information No. 60.)

Advocating the use of selected seed-plot plants.

8. CAPSULES, SEED AND SEEDLINGS OF THE TIGER LILY, By Dr. A. B. Stout. (Bul. of the New York Botanical Garden, No. 281. 1926.)

In support of this paper we suggest that tiger lilies be grown from seed - or not at all. The mosaic taint almost universally present in stem bulbil perpetuated stocks only slightly damages this kind of lily, but will ruin other kinds.

9. LILIES, By Dr. A. B. Stout. (Bul. of N. Y. Botanical Garden, No. 26, 1925.)

H. Bulletins and technical articles on lily diseases. This is a selected list which mentions only the more readable ones. Such papers are indispensable to commercial lily growers because diseases and pests have proven the chief cause of failure. We receive many complaints from practical growers stating that horticultural discussions of lilies minimize the importance of diseases while actual experience shows that diseases often limit propagation and reduce quality. Some of the following papers are readily available and may prove helpful.

1. FINAL SUMMARY OF THE WORK ON DISEASES OF LILIES, by Dr. Carl E. F. Guterman. (Available both as a reprint from the Horticultural Society of New York, and from The Boyce Thompson Institute, Yonkers, New York.)

This Guterman paper is the best general paper on lily diseases yet published in the English language. Every commercial grower should have it and read it. A recent paper, but in the Holland language, is cited next.

2. ONDERZOEKINGEN OVER ZIEKTEN VAN LELIES, By Dr. W. F. Van Hell. (Obtainable from the author at the University of Utrecht, Utrecht, Holland.)

This is a 116 page paper (thesis) describing the lily bulb rots and other diseases which have proven troublesome in Holland.

4. **THE PRODUCTION OF EASTER LILY BULBS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1908.**
   (cited above.)


Citations 3-5 inclusive together with the summary presented in the Guterman paper (above No. 1), serve to establish the importance of virus diseases in the lily industry. The condition was entirely misunderstood at the time of the Woods paper (No. 3 above), but even then the serious nature of the trouble was recognized. The older reports of the Dept. of Agriculture in Bermuda describe the downfall of the Easter Lily industry there. This lowering of quality and availability of Bermuda grown bulbs incited the 1908 paper by Oliver. The later papers by Ogilvie demonstrate the true cause and point the way out. These later papers and the summary of lily diseases in Helen Fox's book have created the demand for disease free lilies in the east. What they wish is lily bulbs untainted with mosaic or yellow flat virus, because it is now recognized that these diseases can be avoided.

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**Literature on Lily pests:** Mites are often very destructive to lily bulbs. The Garman paper cited below is of general interest in that it describes the life history of these mites. Specific control measures applicable to lily bulbs are being developed in Mr. Doucette's laboratory at Sumner, Washington, but the results of these tests are not yet available in printed form.


The sometimes troublesome lily thrips has been discussed in the following technical publication.

Schaff, R. and Doucette, Chas. F. *Leothrips vaneeckii* Priesner, A recently discovered pest of lily bulbs. *Jour. Ec. Ent.* 25; p. 1016. 1932. (This article is not readily available.)