

Compiled by Damayanthi Hewamanna



White Lily



Yellow lily



Lilium Stargazer

The genus *Lilium* is a flowering plant coming from the Lily family, Liliaceae. They are important culturally and in literature in much of the world and some species are sometimes grown or harvested for the edible bulbs. Many other plants exist with "lily" in the common English name, some of which are quite unrelated to the true Lilies.

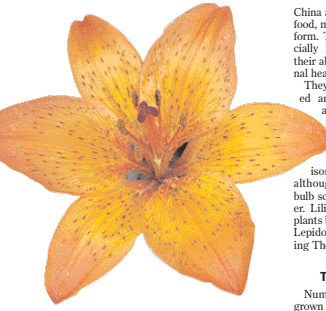
**Range**

The range of lilies in the Old World extends across much of Europe, the north Mediterranean region, across most of Asia to Japan, south to the Nilgiri mountains in India, south to the Philippines and from southern Canada through much of the United States. They are commonly adapted to either woodland habitat, often to grassland habitats. A few can survive in marshland and epiphytes are known in Southeast Asia including *Arboricola*.

**Features**

Lilies are leafy stemmed herbs. They form naked or tunic-less scaly underground bulbs from which they over winter. In some North American species, the base of the bulb develops into rhizomes, on which numerous small bulbs are found. Some species develop stolons. Most bulbs are deeply buried, but a few species form bulbs near the soil surface. Many species form stem-roots. With these, the bulb grows naturally at some depth in the soil, and each year the new stem puts out adventitious roots above the bulb as it emerges from the soil. These roots are in addition to the basal roots that develop at the base of the bulb. Most species are deciduous, but a few species the *Lilium candidum* and the *Lilium catesbaei* bear a basal rosette of leaves during dormancy. The seed-ripe in late summer and they exhibit varying and sometimes complex germination patterns adapted to cool temperate climates.

Many species are widely grown in the garden in temperate and sub-tropical regions. Sometimes they may also be grown as potted plants. A large number of ornamental hybrids have been developed. They can be used in herbaceous borders, woodland and shrub plantings, and as a patio plant.



Lilium bulbiferum

# Lily

Kingdom	: Plantae
(unranked) Phylum	: Angiosperms
(unranked) Order	: Monocots
Order	: Liliales
Family	: Liliaceae
Genus	: <i>Lilium</i>

The large flowers have six tepals, are often fragrant, and come in a range of colours ranging through whites, yellows, oranges, pinks, reds and purples. Markings include spots, brush strokes and picotees. Some species formerly included within this genus have now been placed in other genera. These include *Cardiocrinum*, *Notholirion*, *Nomocharis* and some *Fritillaria*.

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**Easter lily**

Some lilies, especially *Lilium longiflorum*, as well as a few other hybrids, form important cut flower crops. These tend to be forced for particular markets, for instance, longiflorum for the Easter trade, when it can be called the Easter lily. *Lilium* bulbs are starchy and edible as root vegetables, although bulbs of some species may be very bitter. The non-bitter bulbs of *lancifolium* and *pumilum* are grown at large scale in



Lilium hansonii



Lilium bulbiferum



A bunch of Yellow lilies

China as a luxury or health food, most often sold in dry form. They are eaten especially in the summer, for their ability to reduce internal heat.

They may be reconstituted and stir-fried, grated and used to thicken soup, or processed to extract starch. Their texture and taste draw comparison with the potato, although the individual bulb scales are much smaller. Lilies are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species including *The Dun-bar*.

**Types of lilies**

Numerous forms are grown for the garden, and most of these are hybrids. They vary according to their parent species, and are classified in the following broad groups. Asiatic hybrids are the medium sized, upright or outward facing flowers, mostly unscented. They are derived from central and East Asian species. Martagon hybrids are based on *Martagon* and *Hansonii* where the flowers are nodding in Turk's cap style.

The Candidum hybrids includes of *Candidum* with several other mostly European species. The American hybrids are mostly taller growing forms, originally derived from *Pardalinum*. Many are clump-forming perennials with rhizomatous rootstocks.

The Longiflorum hybrids are most important as plants for cut flowers, and are less often grown in the garden than other hybrids. Trumpet lilies include hybrids of many Asiatic species, including *Regale* and *Auriflame*. The flowers are trumpet shaped, facing outward or somewhat downward, and tend to be strongly fragrant, often especially night-fragrant.

Lastly the Oriental hybrids are fragrant, and the flowers tend to be outward facing. They happen to be tall and quite large like the *Lilium "Stargazer"*. Source: Wikipedia

## The Easter Bunny

DEMI

Do you remember when you were in school and each time Easter Sunday came your art teacher would ask you to draw the most colourful egg along with a bunny, so she can put it up in her classroom? But did she ever tell you why each year you had to draw something related to that?

Do you know how the egg came to be and even the bunny rabbit? Well read closely, because I'm sure you are going to enjoy this.

The Easter Bunny is a mythical character that in legend tells about how this he brings baskets filled with colored eggs, candy and toys to the homes of children on the night before Easter.

The Easter Bunny will either put the baskets in specific place or hide them somewhere in the house for the children to find when they wake up in the morning.

The Easter Bunny and Santa Claus are both very much alike as they bring gifts to children on the eve of the special day.

The Easter Bunny as the symbol of Easter is said to come from Alsace and southwestern Germany.



Easter bunnies



Who said only humans and rabbits can celebrate Easter?

where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1600s.

The first edible Easter Bunnies were made in Germany during the early

1800s and were made of pastry and sugar. The Easter Bunny was introduced to America by the German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country during the 1700s.

The arrival of the "Oschter Haws" was considered one of "childhood's greatest pleasures," similar to the arrival of Kris Kringle on Christmas Eve.

According to the tales of tradition, children would build brightly colored nests, often out of caps and bonnets, in secluded areas of their homes.

The "Oschter Haws" would, if the children had been good, lay brightly colored eggs in the nest.

As the tradition spread, the nest has become the manufactured, modern Easter basket, and the placing of the nest in a secluded area has become the tradition of hiding baskets.

Now, I hope next time when your teacher asks you to draw or make a Easter egg or basket, you will ask her to tell the story of the Easter Bunny so that you can make arrangements next time to be good so that you may also get a surprise basket of goodies by your bedside when you wake up on Easter Sunday.

So I wish you all a very Happy Easter!

## Health tips for your pet

### The Flea threat

As a loving pet owner, you'd do anything to prevent your cat or dog from suffering. After all, they're part of the family. Yet every year when flea season begins, the suffering sets in. It's like an old broken record. Fleas bite, and the scratching and chewing starts again. It's a painful and irritating routine for you and your pet. But that's just the beginning.

Adult fleas jump on your cat or dog and they bite them to feed on their blood. Then the fleas produce eggs where they drop from your pet to the ground or carpet. The eggs develop over time into adult fleas. And the cycle starts all over again.

They can be an invisible threat as the adult fleas on your pet can actually cause serious medical problems, like flea allergy dermatitis or tapeworms, and in some extreme cases, anemia. Flea-related diseases account for more than 50 percent of dermatologic cases presented to veterinarians and more than 35 percent of the total small animal veterinary effort.

Flea control should begin as flea prevention before the flea season

starts. Depending on which part of the country you live in, your flea season can last for four months or it can be a year-long problem.

**Flea-related diseases account for more than 50 percent of dermatologic cases presented to veterinarians and more than 35 percent of the total small animal veterinary effort**

If you are in the midst of flea season and still have problems with fleas, do not despair.

Your veterinarian is a flea expert and can advise you on the latest new products that kill adult fleas, eggs, and larvae, and that take care of fleas in your environment.

They will base their recommendation on your regional weather conditions (high humidity and heat means more fleas on the way), your pet's health and level of flea infestation.



Dog scratching itself

## Homes needed

The pictures say it all. Two adorable little pups longing for that loving home where they can bring light, life and excitement into so many lives.

So if there is anyone who is out there, who has been longing for that little special pup you had in mind, well now you can make it come true.

Embark is now a known name among every human who loves to give a hand in

rescuing homeless dogs as well as cats, sterilizing them and finding them good homes, their campaigns have been very successful from the time of their inception and they are still going headstrong with their program.

Embark re-launched their website, giving it a new look and carried out several sterilization campaigns recently at the Thalangama Lake side.



Embark



The average dog is a nicer person than the average person. - Andy Rooney



- Andy Rooney



If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise. - Unknown