

How to...

Grow Lilies in Containers



A great way to grow lilies is in containers, as they are free draining which helps the plants to thrive.

Planting

Place a 5cm layer of gravel in the bottom of your container then fill with multi purpose compost with added John Innes. Plant the bulbs to a depth of two and a half times the height of the bulb, making sure the bulb points upwards. At this stage, it's a good idea to add some controlled release feed because lilies are heavy feeders. Place the container in a frost-free environment - greenhouse, conservatory or porch etc.

Growing on

Keep the compost moist but not too wet. Once the shoots appear, move to a warm sunny site to help the bulbs to grow. When lilies are grown in pots, it is wise to use a slug deterrent, such as copper tape, around the pots to protect the new shoots from slug and snail attack.

After Flowering

Once the lilies have flowered, move the container to the back of the garden and let the foliage die back naturally so all of the nutrients go back into the bulb ready for next year. Once this has happened the bulb can either be planted in garden or stored for next year.

Storage

Keep the containers in a cool, frost free environment in good light such as a cold greenhouse or cold frame which also has good ventilation. Do not water the containers overwinter.