



Waste depots open

Bryan Latham of Goodwood is one of the first residents to bring household hazardous wastes to one of two Durham Region depots. The depots at the Region's waste management facilities in Port Perry and in Brock Township are open to residents Tuesday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Transfer clerk Dan Lindsay accepts the material.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE/

Lilies have a long history and were once used against facial wrinkles and infection

Many flowers masquerade under the name of lily - lemon lilies, calla lilies, canna lilies, kaffir lily, Lily of the Nile, and many more.

True lilies, members of the genus *Lilium*, have a bulb that is composed of fleshy scales without a protective covering so it is never truly dormant and should be considered a living perennial plant.

Lilies have a long history. They were first painted by the Minoans on Crete fifteen centuries ago. It was also the holy flower of the Assyrians. The bulbs were used medicinally to cool infections while the petals were mixed with honey to remove facial wrinkles.

By the Middle Ages it had become an important motif in art and heraldry. In Britain, the lily was revered as a sacred flower and the famous "Madonna Lily" (*Lilium candidum*) was often planted in convent gardens.

Years of cultivation and cross breeding have created thousands of hybrids. The best known groups



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

are the asiatics, trumpets and orientals.

The asiatics were developed from Asian species. These small bulbs produce plants ranging from 18-30 inches tall that bloom in June and July with flowers either spotted or unmarked in colors ranging from white, pink, yellow, orange and red. The blooms are usually at the top of the stem, facing out.

The taller fragrant trumpet lilies have the typical Easter Lily (*L. longiflorum*) shape and range in color from white to yellow to pinks and purples.

The Oriental hybrids grow from large bulbs to about 24 inches tall. The spectacular open flowers are very fragrant.

The trumpets and orientals beautify and perfume our gardens from July through August.

During the last 20 years there have been many new developments in the lily world. The 'Pixies' are dwarf Asiatics 12-15 inches tall and perfect for pot growing.

A longiflorum X Asiatic crossing produced the 'Royal Series' hybridizers in Western Canada have produced Oriental X Asiatic hybrids that are more cold hardy than the Orientals.

Lily bulbs are offered for sale in both spring and fall although many experts prefer a fall planting. When purchasing bulbs in spring you choose from a color picture or a written description - neither of which may be absolutely perfect. Consider growing spring lilies in deep pots.

When they bloom walk them around your garden to determine the perfect location and then plant them in October. If you still have your Easter Lily plant it now - it should bloom again in the fall.

Lilies prefer fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot where the soil is kept cool by underplantings or mulch. All day sun is not necessary. Small bulbs should be planted 6 inches deep and 12 inches apart if you are making a clump. Larger bulbs should be 8 inches deep and 18 inches apart. Large established clumps may be dug and divided in September.

The best thing about lilies is that no matter how full your garden is there's always room for one more! Send your questions or comments to:

Let's Get Growing
c/o The Tribune
88 Brock St. W.
Uxbridge, Ontario
L9P 1R4

Attn: Marjorie Mason Hogue

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