



Easter Lily

Lilium longiflorum

Our signature crop, and the one we are best known for. A short, spectacular season indoors and a long life in the garden afterwards.

Florist trick Pull the anthers as each bud opens and flowers last longer

INDIRECT LIGHT

COOL ROOM

PLANT OUTDOORS

DAY TO DAY

Light	Bright but indirect — near a window, not in direct sun. Away from drafts, open doors and heat vents.
Water	Water when the surface feels dry, thoroughly, until it runs out the bottom. Take the foil sleeve off or punch holes in it — a lily standing in trapped water rots within days.
Food	None needed while flowering. If you plan to plant it outdoors afterwards, feed monthly with dilute houseplant food once flowering ends.
Temperature	Cool is better: 16–21°C / 60–70°F by day with slightly cooler nights keeps the flowers open far longer than a warm room.
Humidity	Ordinary indoor humidity. Good air movement helps prevent grey mould on the petals.

WHEN THE FLOWERS FINISH

As each bud opens, pull out the yellow anthers before they shed pollen — it extends the life of every flower and keeps pollen off the furniture. Pinch each bloom off where it joins the stem as it withers. It will not rebloom indoors, but it lives outdoors for years: keep it in a sunny window until frost danger passes, harden it off over six or seven days from shade into full sun, then plant the bulb 15 cm / 6 in. deep and 30–45 cm / 12–18 in. apart in well-drained soil in full sun. Let the old foliage yellow before cutting back, and mulch well for winter. Outdoors it settles into a natural July–August bloom, and comes back stronger each year.

IF SOMETHING LOOKS WRONG

Lower leaves yellowing from the bottom up	Almost always a pot that is holding water. Take the foil sleeve off or punch holes in it, empty the saucer, and let the surface dry before you water again.
Fuzzy grey-brown spots on petals and leaves	Botrytis from damp stagnant air. Increase air circulation, avoid splashing the flowers.
Buds shrivel and never open	Room too warm or in direct sun. Move somewhere cooler and out of direct light.
Pollen stains on clothing	Take the anthers out as each flower opens. It is what florists do, and it keeps the blooms going longer too.

GROWER REFERENCE

Production and finishing figures. If you are keeping this plant on a windowsill, everything you need is on page one — this page is for the trade.

Media pH	6.2–6.5 — higher than most greenhouse crops.
Media EC	Do not allow media EC to exceed 3.0–3.5 mS/cm SME. High soluble salts damage roots; give one clear leaching irrigation before shipping.
Substrate	Well-drained container mix. Critically, no superphosphate and no perlite — both are fluoride sources, and fluoride causes leaf scorch in Lilium.
Fertilizer	200–250 ppm N constant liquid feed from shoot emergence, using 15-0-15 or a 3:2 blend of calcium nitrate and potassium nitrate. Alternate with 20-10-20 only if the medium is phosphorus-free. Do not exceed 200 ppm unless a soil test indicates otherwise; drop to 100 ppm once buds turn white and stop within 7 days of sale. Calcium nitrate corrects leaf scorch.
Light	Not established for <i>L. longiflorum</i> specifically. Shade immediately on removal from cold storage; supplemental 'insurance lighting' only when bulb cooling was incomplete. Comparable hybrid pot lilies are grown at 2,500 f.c.
Temperature	15.5–16.7°C / 60–62°F day and night throughout bud initiation, held below 18.3°C / 65°F until initiation completes. Thereafter ADT is the timing lever: 21–24°C / 70–75°F to speed, 13–16°C / 55–60°F to slow. Best finished quality at 14–16°C / 58–60°F.
Relative humidity	Not established. Guidance is qualitative — avoid prolonged leaf wetness and stagnant air.
Irrigation	Consistent moisture without over-watering. Do not withhold water or fertilizer to slow development — use temperature. One clear water before shipping to leach salts.
Photoperiod	Not photoperiodic in the commercial sense — initiation is driven by bulb vernalization (controlled cold storage) and forcing temperature. Long-day lighting is a rescue only.

DISORDERS & PESTS

Lower leaf yellowing (linked to PGR use, root stress and cold storage duration — corrected with GA4+7 products at 10/10 ppm early-season or 100/100 ppm within 14 days of sale). Fluoride-induced leaf scorch. Botrytis, Fusarium basal rot, Pythium, Rhizoctonia. Cucumber mosaic virus. Bulb mites and fungus gnats increase root rot risk; thrips and aphids at bud stage. Height control by negative DIF or cool morning DIP, A-Rest, Sumagic 2.5–5 ppm, or Topflor 0.25 ppm drench at 3–4 in.

GROWN BY

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 Three generations of family growing since 1962.

Native to Taiwan and Japan's Ryukyu Islands, and Japan supplied nearly all of North America's bulbs until Pearl Harbor cut the trade — today almost every Easter lily bulb sold here is grown on a narrow strip of coastal bottomland straddling northwestern California and southwestern Oregon.

Sources

- UConn IPM, Easter Lily Schedule
- UMass Extension; Griffin Greenhouse Supplies