

NFC NEWS

Issue 537, Thursday, 15 February 2007



THE Lily



Asiatic lily



Christmas Lily



Oriental Lily

Botanical name: *Lilium longiflorum*, *L. auratum*, *L. speciosum*, *L. longiflorum* x Asiatic.

Family: Liliaceae

Common Name: Christmas (or Easter) Lily, Oriental Lily, Asiatic Lily, LA.

Country of Origin: Europe, Northern Mediterranean

Available: All Year

Stem Length: 30 to 100 cm

Lilies give their name to the large Family Liliaceae, which contains about 100 species. Several are used as cut flowers with the most common being dealt with here. Lilies grow from bulbs, and are forced into flower almost year round to satisfy demand. They are tremendously popular flowers and together are ranked #5 in cut flower sales from the Dutch Flower Auctions in 2004.

Christmas Lily: Tall dark green stems with glossy green foliage topped with one or two large white trumpet-shaped flowers. Heavily scented. In the northern hemisphere these lilies are called 'Easter Lilies', whereas in Australia they are produced specifically for the Christmas period. Some Christmas lilies may have red/scarlet lines on the flower – it is more likely these are *L. regale*, or the Regal Lily.

Oriental Lily: Tall green stems with large glossy leaves with two or three large flower per stem. Flower petals reflex back upon opening revealing an interior often spotted brown or black. Orientals can be found in white, pale pink, red or yellow and are renowned for their heavy fragrance, large flower size and long vase life.

Asiatic Lily: Generally shorter stems with several brightly coloured flowers per stem. Colours include yellow, orange, dark red and white and the inside of the petals are commonly spotted in black or brown. Asiatics are not strongly perfumed.

LA: LA stands for 'Longiflorum + Asiatic' which are the two parents that gave rise to this relatively recent member of the lily family. LA's are intermediate in size between the two parents and come in a range of pastel colours: yellow, orange, dark red and white like Asiatics, but much paler in colour. They also have a very attractive scent – far more subtle than *L. longiflorum*.

When Buying Look for:

- Christmas Lilies: in bud but fully coloured white; avoid split flowers close to Christmas;
- Orientals, Asiatics & LA's: at least 2 buds per stem are fully developed and about to open;
- Leaves glossy and free of yellowing;
- Straight strong stems;
- Check stem ends – they should be green and crisp not dry and white.

Flower Care

1. Keep cool at all times.
2. Strip leaves from the lower half of each stem.
3. Recut at least 2 cm off each stem with sharp secateurs and place in water immediately.
4. Preservative is essential as this will help buds open and maintain fragrance.

5. Replace water every day.
6. Orientals and Asiatics are very sensitive to ethylene. Keep them away from fruit, car exhausts and cigarette smoke.
7. You may remove the pollen-containing anthers if you wish, but this can damage the flowers and reduce vase life. Pollen can stain clothing if rubbed and is best removed with sticky tape.

Interesting Facts and Myths

Lilies have been cultivated for over 3000 years. In Greek poetry, the lily stood for tenderness. It was also referred to as the voice of cicadas or of the muses. There is a Greek myth that tells us how the lily was born from the milk of the goddess Hera. The lily still symbolises pure, virginal love in the Christian world.

Until the 16th century the Madonna lily was the only garden variety known, because of this the "lilies of the field" as mentioned in the Bible are thought to be this lily. A lily has adorned the coat of arms of the kings of France since 1179. Interestingly, only the Florentine 'fleur de lys' has stamens like a lily. In the Language of Flowers, any lily means 'Purity of Heart', while orange means 'Hatred or Dislike'. White lilies mean 'It's Heavenly to be with You', while yellow means 'I'm Walking On Air'.

Caution: Be aware that lilies can be highly poisonous to cats.



Victorian Farmers Federation

Flowers Victoria Executive Officer

- Part-time—3-days per week
- Salary— \$29,000 to \$31,000, plus super
- Based in Melbourne CBD

A challenging part-time position of Executive Officer has become available at Flowers Victoria, a branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation Horticulture Group and would suit a motivated individual who has the initiative and drive to make this role their own.

The Executive Officer is responsible for the overall administration of Flowers Victoria Branch and the Horticulture Group including providing high level service to members, produce a newsletter, manage sponsorship and general accounts work using MYOB.

The successful candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills and an ability to liaise effectively with government, media and members of Flowers Victoria.

Applications close 5pm Friday, 23rd February 2007.

To apply or to request a copy of the position description email jsmit@vff.org.au , or alternatively by telephone (03) 9207 5512.

THIS WEEK'S PRICES

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE
AGAPANTHUS	7	\$3.50
AGERATUM	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
ALLIUM - DRUMSTICK	5	\$6.00
ALSTROEMERIA	SML - 7, LGE - 10	\$2.50 TO \$6.00
AMARANTHUS	10	\$7.00 TO \$8.50
ANDROMEDA	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
ANEMONE	10	\$3.00 TO \$4.00
ANTHURIUM	PER STEM	\$4.50
ASTERS		\$2.50 TO \$3.50
BANKSIA - BAXTERI	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.50
BANKSIA - COCCINEA	5	\$5.00
BANKSIA - SPECIOSA	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.00
BOUVARDIA		\$3.00 TO \$7.00
BRUNIA	5	\$4.00 TO \$10.00
CALLA LILY	5	\$5.00
CAMPANULA - BELLFLOWER	10	\$6.50
CAMPANULA - CANTERBURY BELL		\$4.50 TO \$7.00
CARNATION - MICRO	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.50
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$3.00
CARNATION - SPRAY		\$2.50 TO \$5.50
CARNATION - CHINESINI	10-15	\$2.50 TO \$3.50
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$2.50
CARNATION - SIM		\$3.00 TO \$4.00
CELOSIA - COCKSCOMB	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
CELOSIA - PLUME	5	\$5.00
CHINCERINCHEE	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
CHRYSANTHEMUM - FIELD		\$2.50 TO \$3.50
CHRYSANTHEMUM - GLASSHOUSE	5-7	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
COSMOS		\$2.00
DAHLIA	5	\$3.00 TO \$3.50
DAHLIA - POM POM		\$2.00
DAISY		\$2.50 TO \$3.50
DELPHINIUM - GIANT	5	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
DELPHINIUM - BUTTERFLY	5	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
EASTER DAISY		\$2.50 TO \$3.50
ECHINACEA		\$6.50
ECHINOPS	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.50
EMILLE	10	\$4.50
EREMURUS	10	\$5.00 TO \$8.00
ERICA - GREEN	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.50
ERYNGIUM (SEA HOLLY)		\$4.50 TO \$5.50
EUCOMIS (PINEAPPLE LILY)	5	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
FREESIA	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
GERBERA	10	\$5.00 TO \$8.00
GERBERA - MINI	10	\$3.50 TO \$5.50
GLADIOLI	10	\$6.00 TO \$10.00
GLORIOSA LILY	3	\$5.00 TO \$15.00
GODETIA	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.50
GOLDEN ROD	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.00
GYPSOPHILA - STANDARD		\$3.00 TO \$5.00
GYPSY		\$3.00
HELICONIA	5	\$6.00
HELICONIA CLAW	PER STEM	\$4.00 TO \$7.50
HELICONIA SEXY	PER STEM	\$7.50 TO \$10.00
HYACINTH		\$5.00 TO \$7.00
HYACINTH - GRAPE	10	\$5.00
HYDRANGEA	5	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
IRIS	10	\$3.00 TO \$5.00
ISOPOGON	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
IXODIA DAISY		\$3.50
KANGAROO PAW - BLACK		\$8.00
KANGAROO PAW - STANDARD	10	\$5.50
KUNZEA		\$4.50
LARKSPURS	5	\$3.00 TO \$4.00
LAVENDER		\$3.50
LEUCADENDRON	5	\$2.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCADENDRON - DISCOLOUR	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCADENDRON - GALAPINI	5	\$4.50
LEUCADENDRON - SILVAN RED	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCODENDRON - SILVER TREE		\$3.00
LEUCOSPERMUM - REFLEXUM	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00
LEUCOSPERMUM - TANGO	5	\$6.00
LIATRIS	10	\$3.50 TO \$7.00
LILY - ASIATIC	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.50
LILY - LONGIFLORUM	5	\$9.00 TO \$12.00
LILY - ORIENTAL	4-5	\$9.00 TO \$12.00
LILY - LA	5	\$3.00 TO \$6.00
LISIANTHUS	7-10	\$5.00 TO \$7.50
LOPHOSTEMON	5	\$4.50
LOTUS PODS		\$3.00

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE
MISTY		\$4.00 TO \$5.00
MIXED NATIVE BUNCHES		\$4.50 TO \$7.00
NIGELLA (LOVE IN THE MIST)		\$3.00
ORCHID - SINGAPORE	5	\$4.00 TO \$8.00
ORCHID - SLIPPER	PER BLOOM	\$6.50
ORCHID - TIGER	5	\$11.50
PROTEA - KING	PER STEM	\$2.00 TO \$3.00
PROTEA - PINK ICE		\$2.50 TO \$6.50
QUEEN FABIOLA	10	\$2.00
ROSE - 30CM	10	\$3.00 TO \$6.00
ROSE - 40CM	10	\$6.00 TO \$10.00
ROSE - 50CM	10	\$8.00 TO \$12.00
ROSE - 60CM	10	\$10.00 TO \$15.00
ROSE - 60CM (RED)	10	\$20.00 TO \$25.00
ROSE - 70CM+	10	\$12.00 TO \$16.00
ROSE - 70CM+ (RED)	10	\$25.00 TO \$30.00
ROSE - MINI	10	\$4.50 TO \$6.50
SCABIOSA	10	\$2.50
SNAPDRAGON	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.50
SOLIDASTER	10	\$3.00 TO \$4.00
STATICE		\$2.50 TO \$3.00
STATICE - GLASSHOUSE		\$5.00
STRAWBERRY FIELDS (GOMPHRENA)		\$2.50 TO \$4.00
STRELITZIA - BIRD OF PARADISE	5	\$9.00 TO \$15.00
SUNFLOWERS	5	\$4.00
SWEET WILLIAM		\$2.00 TO \$3.00
TUBEROSE	5	\$4.00 TO \$7.50
VERONICA	10	\$3.00 TO \$4.00
WARATAH - DORRIGO	5	\$5.00 TO \$10.00
WATER LILIES	5-7	\$5.00 TO \$8.00
WAXFLOWER - OPEN	10	\$4.00
WAX FLOWER - BUDS		\$3.00
FOLIAGE		
ACACIA APHYLLA		\$5.50 TO \$6.50
ASPIDISTRA		\$3.00
BANANA LEAF	20	\$20.00
BLACKBERRY FOLIAGE	10	\$4.50
BULLRUSHES	4	\$5.00 TO \$6.00
BUXUS	7	\$3.00 TO \$3.50
CAMELLIA		\$4.50 TO \$5.00
CHRISTMAS BUSH		\$5.00 TO \$7.00
CLETHRA		\$5.50
COLOURED STICKS	6	\$25.00
CORDYLIN	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00
EMU BUSH		\$3.00 TO \$5.00
FAN PALM	10	\$5.00
FILICA		\$4.00
FLAX		\$3.50 TO \$7.50
GERBERA FOLIAGE		\$3.00
GINGER FOLIAGE		\$5.00
GUM - FLOWERING		\$3.00
GUM		\$2.50
HAPPY PLANT	10	\$6.00
HIMALAYAN HONEYSUCKLE		\$7.50
HOLLY	5-6	\$5.50
HOSTA LEAVES		\$4.00
HYDRANGEA FOLIAGE	5-6	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
HYPERICUM BERRIES	10	\$5.00 TO \$7.00
IVY		\$3.00 TO \$4.50
KOALA FERN	10	\$4.50
LAUREL		\$4.50
LEATHER FERN		\$4.00 TO \$5.00
MING FERN		\$4.50
MONSTERIA LEAVES		\$6.50 TO \$9.00
NANDINA		\$3.50
PHILODENDRON - XANADU	5-6	\$4.00 TO \$6.00
PIMELLA		\$3.50 TO \$4.00
RED WILLOW	5	\$5.00
SILVER BUSH	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00
SILVER TREE		\$3.00
SILVER SUEDE		\$5.00 TO \$6.00
SMOKE BUSH	5	\$5.50 TO \$6.50
SNOWBERRY		\$7.50
SPEAR GRASS		\$2.00 TO \$3.00
SPRUCE	5	\$5.00
TETRAGONA GUM NUTS	10	\$5.50 TO \$6.50
WEIGELA		\$5.00
WINTER SWEET	5	\$7.50
WOODY PEAR	PER STEM	\$1.00