

# Plant of the Week

## Asiatic Lilies

How do you tell the difference between an **Asiatic Lily** and an **Oriental Lily**? **With great difficulty!** Even the names are confusing. Don't they both mean the same thing? Not quite. According to the **Macquarie Dictionary**, **Asiatic** is synonymous with **Asian**, meaning belonging to, or characteristic of, the continent of Asia. **Oriental** means characteristic of, or pertaining to, the Orient or East. Hmm, this is still not particularly enlightening. Fragrance seems to be the best way to determine which is which.

**Oriental Lilies** are **fragrant**, **Asiatic Lilies** are **not**. Asiatic Lilies have been hybridized from *Lilium* species that can be found from the Middle East through to Western China. They are thus well suited to growing in hot and dry conditions<sup>1</sup>. Oriental Lilies have been developed from *Lilium* species native to Japan, Korea and Taiwan.



### Asiatic Lilies

Not fragrant  
Single coloured (mostly)  
Orange, red, yellow  
Petals with straight edges  
Flowers 10 – 15 cm diameter

Originate from (mostly)

**Middle Eastern & Asian spp.:**

- L. bulbiferum
- L. cernuum
- L. concolor
- L. davidii
- L. lancifolium
- L. maculatum

### Oriental Lilies

Fragrant  
Multi-coloured  
White, pastel pinks, reds, yellows  
Petals with ruffled edges  
Flowers 15 – 20 cm diameter

Originate from (mostly)

**Japanese & Korean spp.:**

- L. alexandrae
- L. auratum
- L. japonicum
- L. nobilissimum
- L. rubellum
- L. speciosum

### References:

<sup>1</sup>Berridge Nursery: <http://www.berridgenursery.com/files/Download/Lily%20Care.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilium>



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