EASTER LILY TIPS

Joseph J. Maisano, Jr. Extension Agent—Horticulture

Watering is the key to excellent root growth.

Be sure to water bulbs thoroughly to completely wet the soil ball. This will enable the bottom roots to develop properly.

With the energy crisis, timing may be more critical. A week or two can be made up at the end as Easter is April 14 this year. Lower starting temperatures will aid development of roots and help produce a stronger plant.

With lower temperatures, watering should be watched closely. Soil bacteria are not as active. High ammonia can limit root development. Soluble salts may accumulate if growth is slower and fertilizer schedules are not adjusted.

Avoid ammonia-containing fertilizers. Be sure to use calcium nitrate, potassium nitrate or 16-4-12 as suggested in the Easter lily schedule.