

Forcing of Lilies

During the period of Fall 1966 to Spring 1967, a series of treatments were evaluated to determine the effects of various cooling techniques on the forcing of "Ace" lily bulbs.

The treatments evaluated were as follows: (1) 38°F in peat for 8 weeks, then potted; (2) 48°F in peat for 8 weeks, then potted; (3) potted, then 1 week at 63°F followed by 38°F for 7 weeks; (4) potted, 2 weeks at 63°F followed by 38°F for 6 weeks; (5) potted, 3 weeks at 63°F followed by 38°F for 5 weeks; (6) potted, 1 week at 63°F followed by 48°F for 7 weeks; (7) potted, 2 weeks at 63°F followed by 48°F for 6 weeks; and (8) potted, 3 weeks at 63°F followed by 48°F for 5 weeks. Two bulb sizes were used, 6-7 inch and 7-8 inch.

From a practical point of view, it was found that the best treatment was direct potting with 3 weeks at 63°F, followed by 5 weeks at 38°F. This treatment resulted in an increased bud count of 1.5 flowers for the 6 to 7 inch bulbs and 3.4 flowers for the 7 to 8 inch bulbs. - W. H. Carlson and A. A. De Hertogh, MSU Hort. Rept., Spring 1968.