

LILY LEAF COUNTING

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Leaf counting is another tool to time lilies more accurately. Last Easter, research was carried out in seven greenhouses in Connecticut to determine the desirability of this method. (See Connecticut Greenhouse Newsletter #44, Jan. 1972 for procedures.)

We found that one could predict the speed of development of the bud count more accurately. To aid in determining leaf and bud count, a large magnifying glass or preferably a dissecting microscope is almost a necessity when counting at 11 weeks before Easter.

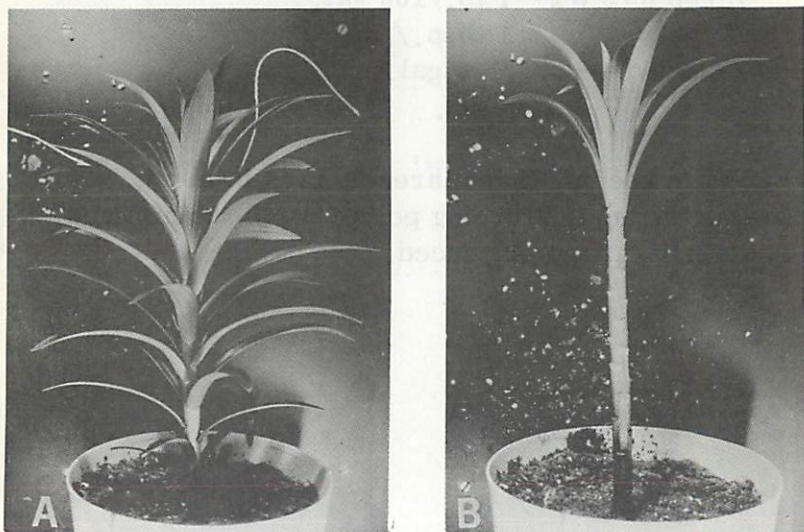


Fig. 1A To facilitate counting unfolding leaves, a string may be placed around the stem each week or a punch used to mark counted leaves.

1B The leaves have been removed from this plant up to those with less than a 45° angle to indicate those leaves involved in the counting procedure.

Leaf counting is a useful tool because it extends the period of time over which one can control lily development and provides a better chance to bring the lilies in on schedule.

This will be utilized more by the larger producers in addition to charts, bud calendars, and their own method for timing lilies.

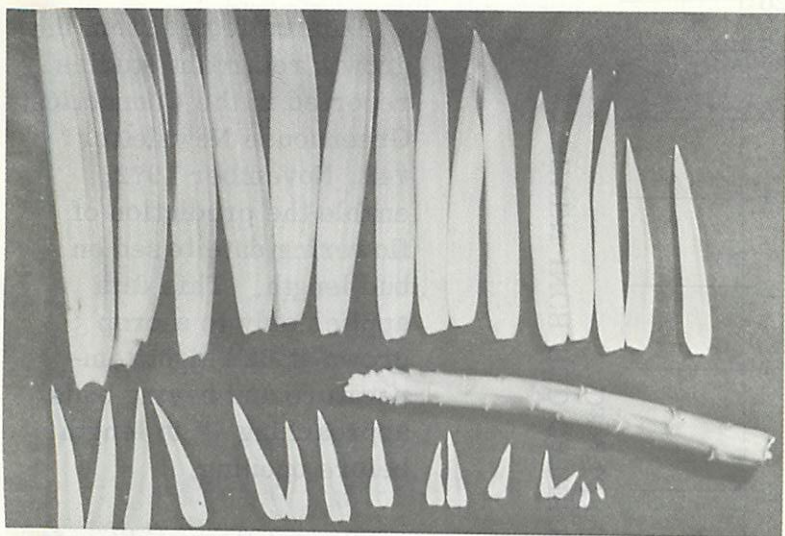


Fig. 2 The leaves removed from a sacrificed plant to determine leaf count.

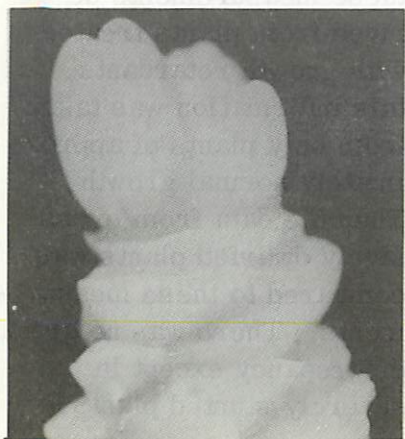


Fig. 3 Photomicrograph of the lily buds at 10 weeks before flowering.