LILIES FOR ENGLISH GARDENS. A GUIDE FOR AMATEURS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649636198

Lilies for English Gardens. A Guide for Amateurs by Gertrude Jekyll

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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GERTRUDE JEKYLL

LILIES FOR ENGLISH GARDENS. A GUIDE FOR AMATEURS



LILIES FOR ENGLISH GARDENS



THE WHITE LILY IN A COTTAGE GARDEN.

THE "COUNTRY LIFE"
LIBRARY.

GARDENS.

A GUIDE FOR AMATEURS.

COMPILED FROM INFORMATION PUBLISHED LATELY
IN "THE GARDEN," WITH THE ADDITION
OF SOME ORIGINAL CHAPTERS.

BY

GERTRUDE JEKYLL.

SECOND EDITION.



PUBLISHED BY

"COUNTRY LIFE"

20, TAVISTOCK STREET,

COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

GEORGE NEWNES, Ltd. 7-12, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C. 1903.



INTRODUCTION

LILIES, comprising as they do, some of the most stately and beautiful of garden flowers, are not nearly so much grown in gardens as their beauty deserves. One may go through many a rather large place and not see a Lily from one end to the other, and in spite of the enormous and ever-increasing interest in gardens and flowers of these days, a large proportion of the people who are taking a practical interest in horticulture hardly as yet know one Lily from another.

The present writer and compiler, who has been a working amateur for thirty years, has keenly felt the want of a short, concise, illustrated handbook; such a book as will just tell amateurs in the plainest way what they are most likely to want to know about Lilies. Such a book has therefore been prepared in the form of the present volume, in which the information has been condensed and put as shortly as possible for greater simplicity and ease of reference.

Early in 1900 the editors of *The Garden*, feeling that it was desirable to encourage the growth of these good plants, sent out circulars to some thirty known growers of Lilies, in order to ascertain firstly what

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Lilies were the easiest of general culture, and secondly in what circumstances various other Lilies might be considered successful in different parts of the United Kingdom. The result of these inquiries is herewith published, with acknowledgments to those who so readily and courteously complied with the request.

Acknowledgments are also due to Mr. W. Robinson for permission to make reproductions of Lily portraits from some of the former Garden plates; to several friends of The Garden, especially to Miss Willmott, Mr. G. F. Wilson, and Messrs. Wallace of Colchester, for photographs of Lilies, and to Mr. E. T. Cook, joint-editor of The Garden, for much helpful advice and assistance.

It must be understood that this is merely an amateur's handbook; a simple guide to those who wish to grow Lilies in English gardens. Several Lilies known to exist are not named in it, either because they are of secondary importance in our gardens or because they are scarce or tender or little known. They concern the botanist, whose business it is to know and to classify everything; they scarcely concern the gardener whose interest it is to know what Lilies will best grace his garden.

The Lilies named are (with grateful acknowledgment to the work of that eminent botanist) arranged according to the classification of Mr. J. G. Baker, so long Keeper of the Herbarium and Library of the Royal Gardens at Kew.

A careful observation of the distinctive features of the great divisions of Lilies will not only give additional interest to the plants themselves, but will give the amateur grower some grasp of the botanical aspect, by helping him to observe the evidences of the common laws of structure that have been accepted in determining the relationships of the groups. No one could believe, who has not taken the trouble to learn these simple and now plainly defined characters, how the possession of such knowledge increases our interest in any group of plants. What a joy it is, in Daffodils for instance, to have acquired a "Daffodil eye," so that when any new Narcissus, whether collected wild or produced by intentional hybridisation, is shown, to be able at a glance to guess fairly nearly at its parentage and quite surely at its clanship. In the matter of Lilies it is much easier, for the forms in the several groups are more distinct.

In addition to the acknowledgment so justly due to Mr. Baker, it would be ungracious on the part of any one venturing to put together a handbook on Lilies to omit some grateful reference to the labours of others who have worked among these noble flowers; to the travels and writings of Mr. Henry Elwes, author of the "Monograph," the standard authority on Lilies; to the many years of experiment and written record of Mr. G. F. Wilson; and to the industry and perseverance of Mr. Max Leichtlin of Baden-Baden.