

## EASTER LILY CARE

The pure white flowers of the Easter Lily can be found in many homes at this time of the year. Cool temperatures, direct sunlight, and proper watering will prolong the flowers. Over-watering is the most common cause of death. Water the plant until water comes out the bottom of the pot. If the plant came with a plastic pot cover, make sure to drain any excess water. Never let the plant sit in water. Water again when the soil in the top half of the pot feels dry.

Easter Lilies can be planted outside, and they will bloom at mid-summer in following years. When the flowers fade, they can be pinched off. Allow the leaves to stay on the plant, so that they can produce food for the bulb. Keep the plant growing in its pot until all danger of frost has passed, usually around May 25 in Washtenaw County. Select a sheltered but sunny place such as near the foundation of a house. Well-drained soil is essential. Add organic matter such as compost or peat moss to improve drainage in clay soils. Loosen the soil in an area larger than the plant. Back-fill the hole with the loosened soil, so that the plant will sit at the same level it was in the pot. Water well.

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

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