

TURKS CAP LILLY

Lily, the common name applied to herbaceous flowering plants belonging to the [genus](#) *Lilium* of the family [Liliaceae](#). The genus contains between 80 and 100 species, native to the temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere. Lilies are prized as ornamental plants, and they have been extensively hybridized.

Lilies are among the oldest cultivated plants. In [Asia Minor](#), during the 2nd millennium BC, the [bulb](#) of the Madonna lily was cultivated for use in a medicinal ointment; the ancients raised the bulbs of this species for food. The Greeks and Romans grew it for ornamental and medicinal purposes. During the Middle Ages the Madonna lily was associated with the Virgin Mary as a symbol of purity; it is often included in paintings of her. In East Asia various species of lily were grown as food and ornamental plants from an early date.

Most species bloom in July or August. The flowering periods of certain species begin in late spring; others bloom in late summer or early autumn.