



Check the containers every week or so for above-ground growth. Also make sure the mix is not getting dry. When growth commences, feed with a dilute liquid fertilizer and place in a cool (50-60 F), bright location, such as under fluorescent lights in the basement, or in a cool greenhouse. Do not expose lily seedlings to full sun.



Some growers mix the seed with some moist medium in a plastic bag, which is then placed in a refrigerator until germination takes place. It works, but it means that you have to transplant the germinated seeds into a container. Why not just plant the seeds in a container in the first place, as we have done here?

If the seed does not germinate by Spring, do not discard. Keep the container in the sealed plastic bag in a shaded, protected place over summer, and repeat the cooling process the next Fall and Winter. Keep the medium moist. I have had *L. washingtonianum* and *rubescens* come up 3 years after planting.

**My latest growing mix:** equal parts good topsoil, bark dust, peat moss, perlite, pumice, plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  part vermiculite. To each gallon of mix, I add: one tsp. lime, one tsp. bone meal ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. Micromax trace element mix. I don't sterilize the mix.

**Soluble fertilizer for seedlings:** Peters 20-20-20 plus chelated Iron plus Manganese Sulphate.

**Outdoor growing tips:** KEEP THEM COOL. If the potting mix gets too warm, the bulbs will all rot. Get the seedlings into the soil by mid-May. Plant them where they are shaded during the hottest part of the day. They will grow slower, but they will survive. Mulch with bark mulch. You MUST protect from slugs (bait), birds (use plastic netting), moles (trap), deer (fence, repellent). Do not let them get too dry. For westerns, if they go dormant, let the soil dry and provide lots of shade and mulch to keep the soil cool. Do not let the soil bake in the sun.