

## Growing Lilies from Seed

Lily seeds germinate in four different ways: Immediate epigeal (IE) which have a grass-like leaf, called a cotyledon that emerges first, delayed epigeal (DE), immediate hypogeal (IH) which have a small bulb that grows first followed by a true leaf, and delayed hypogeal (DH). The two methods of starting seeds are different but each is relatively easy. Consult the “Species Lily Germination Modes” information on the culture tab of the North Star Lily Society (NSLS) website to determine the kind of germination mode of the various species lilies. The “Let’s Grow Lilies” book and the North American Lilies Society website provide easy to follow instructions for growing IE and DH seeds:

<http://www.lilies.org/culture/growing-from-seed/>

Many growers start IE lily seed in the winter under grow lights or in a south window. Others start seeds in pots (about 1 inch apart) in the spring to grow outdoors. When you transplant out into the garden, the seedlings do not mind being clumped together. You can try to plant them in one clump without separating them until the next year or later. If you wish to wait to plant the seeds, lily seeds can be kept frozen in your freezer to stay fresh until spring or for many years.

Continue reading about the “Care of Seedlings” in the culture tab of the NSLS website.

Below: *L.cernuum*, photo by Bill Bauer and *L. concolor* and *L. callosum*, photos by Peggy Nerdahl

