

## How to care for your potted Easter lily

If you just picked up a potted Easter lily to brighten up your home for spring, follow the steps below for how to care for your potted Easter lily.

**Step 1:** Unwrap/unbox your plant immediately once you get home. The decorative packaging they often come in can waterlog the plant causing the roots to rot or deteriorate.

**Step 2:** Remove the anthers. The anthers are the tall stems that grow from the center of the bloom. Removal can prolong the life of the flower and prevent pollen from staining the pristine white petals.

**Step 3:** Find a bright spot for it to grow. Avoid any areas of your home with too much direct sunlight as this is sure to shorten their lifespan.

**Step 4:** Keep it cool. Be sure your plant is protected from any heat sources or vents and try to keep your home between 60°F and 68°F.

**Step 5:** Water when the soil is dry to touch. Avoid over-watering or letting it sit in water but do not let it stay dry for a prolonged period of time either.

**Step 6:** Remove any fading flowers. Pruning any withering petals will help promote new growth.

Once your lily has survived the colder days of spring, you can plant it outside and enjoy it throughout summer as well!

## Planting your Easter lily outside

**Wait until flowers have finished blooming:** To successfully transplant a lily to your garden, wait until all flowers have faded and all danger of frost has passed.

**Prune your plant:** Be sure to remove any dead or dying blooms. Once you have pruned all blossoms, select an area with bright, indirect light.

**Plant the bulb:** Plant the bulb to the same depth it was in the pot and then add a few inches of mulch around the roots. Avoid placing mulch near the stem because it could cause rotting.

**Water well while the plant is blooming and continue to prune:** Once the original leaves start to brown, trim back to the green leaves. You will begin to see new growth soon! Be sure to water thoroughly at the beginning and during periods of growth.

**Be patient and fertilize ahead of the colder months:** For some plants, you may have to wait until the next summer to see a second bloom. Cut the stem when it begins to turn brown in the fall and apply a generous amount of mulch to insulate the roots through winter.

