

Lilium superbum

Turk's-cap Lily

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



The tallest and showiest of the native lilies, Turk's-cap frequents wet meadows and moist woods primarily in the Mid-Atlantic Region.* A single plant can bear up to 40 individual flowers, which are noted for their stunning color, reflexed tepals, and prominent stamens.

Perennial	Plant in Bud, Flower
Height: 4–7 feet	
Spread: ½–1 foot	
Bloom Color: Orange	
Characteristics	
Herbaceous perennial with a stout, smooth, unbranched stem from a bulb	
Lanceolate leaves with smooth margins and parallel veins arranged in whorls around stem	
Large, nodding orange flowers with greenish throats, maroon spots, reflexed tepals , long, brown-tipped stigma , and six exserted stamens July to August	
Oblong, three-lobed fruit capsules contain flat seeds with papery wings in September	
Spreads by wind-borne seeds and bulb offsets	
Attributes	
Tolerates wet soil or drought when established; no serious diseases, but look out for aphids, mites, and slugs; deer occasionally to frequently severely damage foliage and voles like to eat the bulbs	
Native Americans used bulbs in soups	
Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and large day-flying insects; larval host to ~9 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Well-drained	Hemerocallis fulva - Common Daylily
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	Lilium lancifolium - Tiger Lily
Water Requirements : Moist, Wet	Lilium species - Asiatic & Oriental hybrids
Plant bulbs 5–6 inches deep in fall; mulch	
May need staking for support	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is native to DC, common in DE, reported mostly in MD's Coastal Plain and in the western mountains, and found in most PA counties. In VA, it is infrequent to locally frequent in the mountains and widespread but infrequent in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. In NoVA, it is not reported in Arlington County.
Mass in low spots, rain gardens, by pond edges	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 5a–8b	
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens