

Home & Garden

Autumn inspiration



PHOTO BY JAN RIGGENBACH
 Asiatic lilies are easy to grow but multiply so rapidly they require frequent division.

Lilies perfect for tucking between perennials

Many outdoor garden tasks are dwindling, but it's not too late to dig and divide lily bulbs or plant new varieties. In fact, it's prime time.

Note: Everything in this column refers to true lilies (*Lilium*), not day lilies (*Hemerocallis*), sometimes called lilies.

Lily bulbs — particularly the Oriental type — require a long season to mature. Some specialists point out in their catalogs that you should expect late shipment of lilies for this very reason. The catalog for Brent and Becky's Bulbs (brentandbeckysbulbs.com), for example, notes that shipment of lilies doesn't begin until the bulbs arrive at their facility sometime during October.

Why grow lilies? Because they're beautiful in the garden and also make long-lasting cut flowers. Because many kinds have intoxicating fragrance. Because lilies come in a wide variety of colors to suit any taste. And because some have bloom stalks 6 or 7 feet tall that add dramatic height, while others are petite enough to fit the smallest space.

It isn't hard to find a place to plant lilies. Because they grow tall but narrow and prefer to have their roots shaded from direct sun, they're perfect for tucking between lower-growing perennials such as chrysanthemums and daisies. Choose planting spots with well-drained soil in full sun. If your soil stays soggy, plant lilies on a berm or in a raised bed.

When shopping for lily bulbs, look for plump bulbs that show no sign of shriveling or sprouting. Best bet: buy lily bulbs that are packed in plastic bags of peat moss or cedar shavings to help keep the bulbs fresh.

Most of the lilies in my garden perform well for many years without growing too crowded, but the easy-to-grow Asiatic lilies multiply so rapidly they require frequent division. No wonder: The North American Lily Society says each Asiatic bulb can make two to four new bulbs every year.

You'll know it's time to divide your existing lilies when stalks are crowded and blooms decline. Choose big, plump bulbs for replanting. Extra bulbs are fine for sharing, but make the recipients promise to get the bulbs in the ground immediately. Since lilies lack the protective covering of tulips, daffodils and most other bulbs, they'll dry out if they're stashed in a sack until a more convenient planting time.

Prepare the site by spading compost into the soil. Dig planting holes that are two to three times as deep as the bulbs are tall. Space these holes 18 inches apart and place one bulb in each. Water immediately after planting, but wait until the soil surface freezes before adding a blanket of loose mulch such as pine needles or straw.

Jan Riggenbach
 Midwest Gardening



TANIT JARUSAN/tjarusan@dailyherald.com
 Joan Kaufman, an interior designer from Naperville, chose a wine sectional and a copper metallic finish over the camel base of the walls of this great room in this Lisle home. She also had the tapestry above the fireplace made from a custom upholstery fabric whose many colors include ginger, copper, pomegranate and verdigris green.

Take Mother Nature's cues for trendiest hues

Around the house

Kitchen



COURTESY OF HESTER PAINTING & DECORATING
 A bit of orange in the wall color joins with wood cabinets, red curtains and amber lights to help set the mood for a welcoming kitchen.

Bathroom



COURTESY OF HESTER PAINTING & DECORATING
 This powder room demonstrates the importance of touches of black, especially when using bold colors.

Foyer



TANIT JARUSAN/tjarusan@dailyherald.com
 Kaufman added bold colors of fall to a neutral foyer in this Lisle home.

By DEBORAH DONOVAN
 ddonovan@dailyherald.com

Who would mix shades of orange and purple to decorate a home for fall?

Anyone who thinks like Andrea Volf, an interior designer in Schaumburg, and takes cues from nature.

Asked to come up with a great color combination for autumn decor, Volf produced purple, light green and golds to lighten a fall bouquet that starts with orange tones.

Those rich colors that make our homes warm and cozy are especially appreciated this time of year.

And colors appropriate to fall are in vogue, said Jeff Hester, vice president of Hester Painting & Decorating in Skokie.

Of course you're not going to paint your home for every season, but you can start with neutrals that Hester likes such as Benjamin Moore's Natural Wicker, a very light beige, for rooms where you seek serenity and relaxation, say bedrooms and family rooms. He prefers this color with a light wash or glaze of brown or a linen finish for depth, but says it works great on its own.

In rooms where you want a livelier feel — foyers, kitchens or play rooms — Hester has used Benjamin Moore's deeper maple syrup, which he describes as the orangish brown of pumpkin pie. He envisions this with a wash of gold in a foyer or powder room.

And then there's the dining room, where drama is popular. Hester suggests a wine color, such as Benjamin Moore's merlot. Washing it with a little gold fleck adds elegance.

Many people will be happy sticking with a palette of grays, browns and creams. But maybe you want more. Maybe you want to toss in some hues that keep your room lively throughout the long winter ahead.

Flowers, pillows, throws, candles and even a new chair can bring a lot of interest and seasonal change to your decor.

Painted furniture, whether an Early American antique with a warm red or mustard or the bright, wild and exotic works of MacKenzie-Childs and local artists like Petrine Svoboda of Glen Ellyn can add the perfect punches of color, says Lee Marks of Glen Ellyn. Marks and his wife, Judy, are founders of the Country Folk Art Festival, held each spring and fall in St. Charles.



COURTESY OF ANDREA VOLFF INTERIORS
 Volf's suggestions for this autumn were inspired by nature's own colorful combinations.



COURTESY OF ANDREA VOLFF INTERIORS

If purple and orange tones look this fantastic in nature, try them in your home, says Andrea Volf, an interior designer from Schaumburg.

Color palette

Local designers share ideas for the latest and greatest fall color combinations from daring, lively and exciting to sophisticated and subtle.



COURTESY OF HESTER PAINTING & DECORATING

Orange in all its tones is a popular color for autumn.

Bold and vibrant

- Touches of burnt orange, deep lilac and black surprise brown, camel and turquoise — Susan Brunstrum of sweetpeas design, Libertyville
- Chocolate, purple and terracotta — Linda Navara, LMR Designs, Arlington Heights
- Deep green with copper and plum — Andrea Volf, interior designer, Schaumburg
- Purple, pink and grays, in smoky combination — Edyta Czajkowska, Edyta & Co. Interior Design, Des Plaines

Sophisticated

- Start with rich brown and add amber, white and plum or purple — Volf
- Oyster gray with mustard — Navara
- Chocolate brown mixed with teal and celadon green — Joan Kaufman, interior designer, Naperville
- Warmed taupe gray, citrus green and blackened charcoal — Brunstrum



COURTESY OF HESTER PAINTING & DECORATING

Find the right green, and it will work with fall colors.

Definitely fall

- Chocolate with greens and cinnamon, pumpkin or nutmeg — Kaufman
- Burnt orange, mossy green and brown — Czajkowska

Metallics

- Copper works with chocolate and plum or green and chocolate — Volf
- Muted silver, soft butter cream, cooked mushroom, grayed blue and a hint of copper — Brunstrum
- Try touches of silver with purple and green — Volf
- Don't forget that antique brass and gold are hits on everything from coffee tables to drapery rods and cabinet hardware — Navara
- Eggplant with teal and copper — Kaufman
- Blues and browns with gold — Czajkowska