



FORT TICONDEROGA

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	Tiger Lily
Botanical Name:	<i>Lilium lancifolium</i>
Family:	Liliaceae
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Perennial Flower
Season of Bloom:	Summer

Lilium lancifolium is a species of lily native to eastern Asia, in China, Korea, and Japan. Once known as *Lilium tigrinum*, it is considered to be among the earliest domesticated lilies, is easy to grow, and the bulbs are edible.

Perhaps the hardiest garden lily, the tiger lily is a widespread but sporadic garden escapee, and has naturalized in eastern North America. Though many North American species are known regionally as tiger lilies, the name is properly applied only to this one. The unrelated orange daylily is also often found along roadsides and incorrectly called 'tiger lily'.

The tiger lily is rather easily identified by its truly lanceolate and alternating leaves that bear dark bulbils on the upper stem. The bulbils can be planted to produce a flowering plant in the second year. The recurved petals, dark spots, and four to five foot height make it a desirable ornamental. It's only downfall may be that if eaten, it is toxic to cats. The tiger lily is often mistaken for the **turk's cap lily** which has whorled leaves (circling the stem) and lacks the bulbils along the stem. Both are present in the King's Garden.

