

Lilium superbum

Lilium superbum L.



Turk's-cap lily
Liliaceae (Lily Family)

DESCRIPTION

Height: 4 to 6 feet

Foliage: Smooth foliage, leaves in whorls

Flower: 3 to 7 blooms topping each central stem yellow to deep orange with spots - drooping with petals curved back

Bloom time: in mid to late summer

Lilium superbum or Turk's-cap lily has a star quality in the native flower boarder. Turk's-cap is tall, slender and sophisticated -- growing from 4 to 6 feet high, with smooth whorls of elegant leaves. Once established she will steal the show, with 3 to 7 blooms topping each central stem. Sensing our adoration, the Turk's-cap flowers, bow their heads in distinctive fashion with petals curved back. They are a nectar source for hummingbirds and larger insects and are pollinated by Spicebush swallowtail, Pipevine Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies and the Great Spangled Fritillaries. The common name comes from early comparison to head wraps worn by the sultan of Ottoman-Turkey.

GROWING CONDITIONS

Water Use: Medium

Light Requirement: Sun

Soil Moisture: Moist

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Drought Tolerance: Low

Soil Description: Loam, Sand. Good drainage essential.

Conditions Comments: Like moist but well drained soils

No immediate gratification here but a treasured reward for your patience.