

THE 2011 PLS FALL BULB ORDER

Included with this Newsletter is the annual fall lily bulb group order. It consists of bulbs we will obtain from MAK Lilies & Perennials, Inc. of Stayton, Oregon and Columbia-Platt Lilies of Vancouver, Washington. Overall, the list includes 34 cultivars: 10 Asiatic hybrids, 7 Longiflorum/Asiatic (LA) hybrids, 3 trumpet/Aurelian hybrids, 4 Oriental hybrids, and 10 "Orienpet" hybrids. Two each of the Asiatic and Oriental hybrids are new dwarf varieties. Most of the MAK cultivars are new to our order; many of the CP varieties will be familiar. CP has offered two new lilies, with one exclusive to the Regional lily societies. More LA hybrids are included this year reflecting the rapid improvement of lilies in this category. For the most part, they also bloom a little later than standard Asiatics and so many may match our show better. If there appears to be an emphasis on yellow, this merely reflects the heavy availability of lilies in this color group. Some growers believe that yellow lilies will thrive where other atrophy or fail. Just a thought. All in all, the list should provide a spectrum wide enough to satisfy most members. Note that all of the bulbs on this order are grown in the US.

The total number of bulbs ordered has been reduced again in keeping with our low demand experience in recent years. Accordingly, it will be wise to get your order in the mail as soon as possible to stake your claim. Orders are filled in the order received. **All orders must be received not later 24 September 2011.** John Roe is in charge of the bulb order. He may be reached at (703) 534-6569 or by E-mail at jroeboat@msn.com if you have questions concerning your order.

As you study the order, it is at once apparent that CP Lilies provides a good word picture of each cultivar on their list while MAK descriptions are quite limited.. CP will provide a CD which should contain all of its lilies on the order. These will be available on the Society's website – www.potomaclilysociety.org. An updated disk from MAK is unlikely. At some point they will update their website - www.maklilies.com – but it may not be timely. If you really want a look at what you are about to order, try www.lilynook.mb.ca and use their catalog. Pictures of most lilies are there. A price comparison is also instructive.

One of the major benefits of membership in the Society is the bulb order. We do our best to keep prices low and provide good variety. As with everything else, the price of bulbs is increasing and the cost of shipping is now a major factor in our price/profit calculations. We must move along the bulbs we order or the Society takes a hit. The little profit which does accrue from bulb sales provides the funds to cover our show each year, subsidize to some small extent the cost of the annual meeting, and to meet the administrative costs inherent in any organization. So, please take advantage of the bulb order and order as many bulbs as you can find room for. Bulbs do make great gifts and we encourage our members to invite their friends and neighbors to share in the order. You may also make a copy of the order for a friend and encourage him to send it along on his own just so long as he includes \$4.00 for dues. By doing so, he will pay for this year and 2012 membership.

PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER ON THE ENCLOSED FORM. Check your addition and keep a copy of what you order. If we turn up short or do not receive the variety ordered, John Roe will do his best to contact you and work out a substitute. We have requested delivery of the bulbs in time for the Picnic. They usually come on the Wednesday or Thursday preceding which makes assembling the order a crunch. Please check the box for delivery point. You may pick your bulbs up at the picnic or at the residence of John Roe, 5801 36th St N, Arlington (703)534-6569 in Virginia or from Vicki Bowen, 3 Carter Ct., Rockville (301) 424-8575 in Maryland. If neither of these spots is convenient, please so indicate on your order and we will attempt to work out some other scheme for delivery. You may pay your dues with the order or obtain a copy of Let's Grow Lilies. Dues are \$4.00, the book is now \$5.00.