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Lilium auratum

GOLDEN-RAYED LILY OF JAPAN is a bulbous perennial. Native to Japan it has large fragrant, crimson-spotted, white flowers each petal bearing a central gold stripe. It is also known as Gold-band lily, Gold-banded lily, Gold-banded lily of Japan, Golden-banded lily, Gold-rayed lily, *Goudlelie* (Dutch), Japanese gold-ray lily, Mountain lily, and *Yama-yuri* (Japanese).

This species is a parent of several cultivated varieties.

Auratum means ‘golden yellow or decorated with gold’ with reference to the flowers.

Specially over-grown bulbs are eaten in Japan as a vegetable.

The famous Scottish horticulturist Robert Fortune (1813-1880) discovered this species in 1860 during a trip to Japan. He introduced it to Britain shortly afterwards.