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Lilium bulbiferum

[Synonyms : *Lilium aurantiacum*, *Lilium chaixii*, *Lilium croceum*]

ORANGE LILY is a bulbous perennial. Native to central and eastern Europe it has black spotted, orange-red flowers.

It is also known as *Brandgul lilja* (Swedish), *Brandlilja* (Swedish), Bulb-bearing lily, *Feuerlilie* (German), Fire lily, Herringbone lily, Herring lily, *Kejsarkrona* (Swedish), *Lalia* (Slovak), *Lilie cibulkonosná* (Czech), *Ruskolilja* (Finnish), Saffron lily, and *Vanlig brandlilja* (Swedish).

Bulbiferum is derived from Latin *bulbi-* (bulb) and *-fer* (bearing, carrying) components meaning ‘producing small bulbs’ with reference to the bulbils among the leaves’.

The English herbalist and barber-surgeon John Gerard (1545-1612) is said to have known the orange lily. Some authorities suggest that this species was especially popular in English country gardens from at least the late 16th Century until the 19th Century when it was ousted by the new close relatives arriving from the Far East. In contrast there are other authorities who claim that the flower was only introduced to Britain in 1878.

Orange lily (with sweet-william, *Dianthus barbatus*) is an emblem of the Orangemen of Northern Ireland.