

Quick Method To Growing Martagon Lilies From Seed

Although there are various methods to growing martagons from seed I believe this one is the one which will give results quicker than most due to martagon seed being of the type requiring *delayed hypogeal* germination. Excellent information including this method in more detail, with illustrations can be found in the book '*Martagon Lilies*' published by the late **E. Eugene Fox**. This book can be purchased through **Alberta Regional Lily Society** (arls-lilies.org) or through **North American Lily Society** (lilies.org). If you are even a little bit interested in martagon lilies I highly recommend you purchase a copy!

Typically, it can take up to 7 years for a mature martagon stem of flowers to develop from seed. **Using this method, dubbed 'The Tarlton Method' by Mr. Fox you actually achieve 2 years growth out of that cycle in just 6 months.**

If you plan this ahead of time by **starting your seed in December/January** you can transplant the resulting seedlings into the garden by June/July of the same year.

Supplies needed:

- Seed
- Water
- 10% Bleach solution (10 parts water 1 part bleach)
- Glass jar, 1 quart size with lid - sterilized (run dishwasher or boil first)
- Potting soil mix (peat based)
- Water Soluble Fertilizer (20-20-20 or 14-14-14)
- PATIENCE

Steps:

1. Soak your seed in a 10% bleach solution. Drain seeds after 10 mins.
2. Take the wet seed and place it around the inside of the jar making it stick to the glass sides.
3. Mix some water with the fertilizer at the manufacturers recommended rate in a watering can. Take enough potting mix to fill the jar and moisten, NOT drench, just moisten the mix with the fertilizer water.
4. Gently (so as not to knock the seed stuck inside the glass jar) add moistened potting mix to the jar and firm it down as you add with your fingers or a spoon.

5. Seal the jar with the lid and place it at room temperature. Keep it there for 3 months. At the end of this period you should be able to see very tiny bulbs formed.
6. After 3 months, place the jar with lid intact into the fridge for another 3 months. This provides the necessary cold period, or vernalization.
7. Remove the jar from the fridge and remove the lid. Place it at room temperature in the light. Within a few days, leaf and/or green growth should be noticed.
8. Once green growth is noted it is time to transplant into containers or into the garden. Keep them in shade to begin with or the shock of direct sunlight can harm them. If you plant to the garden, a small cold frame or protected spot in shade is ideal for at least another year. You may also choose to keep them in containers over the summer and then plant them directly in the ground.

IMPORTANT!

- Do not skip Step 3, food is important here because it will be the only source for 6 months.
- After transplanting, do NOT let the little seedlings dry out.
- Do NOT allow them to be saturated at any point either, lily bulbs detest sitting in wet conditions without good drainage even for a day.
- Drainage is crucial in the ground or containers, it is not optional with lilies!
- If transplanting into containers or a seedling flat, a potting mix with sand added will greatly enhance the growth and drainage.

So there you have it, easy-peasy steps to growing martagons from seed, one of the most important ingredients required is patience!

Reference:

Fox, E. Eugene (2006). *Martagon Lilies*. Millet: E. Eugene Fox.