

Plant "Imagination"



Lycoris squamigera, "Magic Lily" (Heirloom 1889)

Magic Lily, Large Clusters of Blushing Blooms When You Least Expect Them!

Magic Lily's dramatic, overnight late-summer bloom is one of the stars of the sunny garden, this reliable performer puts on the final show of the season, offering large, bold trumpets of rosy-pink just as the bright annuals and perennials are fading!

The glossy early-spring foliage passes and dies back weeks or even months before the blooms appear, and you may have forgotten all about them (or reluctantly chalked up a garden failure!) when suddenly, almost literally overnight, the blooms open atop thick, leafless stems! The 2 1/2-foot stalks are a useful size for a border or bed. It is not tall enough to need staking, yet definitely a stately presence.

The blooms are 2 to 3 inches across, their long petals bent back a bit to reveal a golden throat and prominent russet anthers. Long-lasting and quite abundant, they look too good to be true, but require nothing from you except admiration! Their pink cast led to the common name of Naked Ladies, but they are also called the Resurrection Lily. Of course, it turns out that they aren't lilies at all (that would be too easy!), but a member of the Amaryllis family. The original "plant and forget" bulb, Magic Lily asks only full sun and reasonably well-drained soil. Does not bloom the first year. Hardy in zones 5-10.