Hurricane Lily
*Lycoris squamigera*

Hurricane lily flowers appear on a stem without any foliage. The foliage appears in the fall, stays through the winter and dies back in the next summer. The flowers appear in late summer, usually after a heavy rain, hence the name "hurricane lily." Other common names for these flowers include surprise lily, magic lily, resurrection lily, red spider lily and naked lady. Each bulb can produce one to four flower stems, and each cluster of flowers will last about two weeks if protected from wind and sun. The shape and color of the flowers makes them popular with butterflies. **Bulbs of all Lycoris species contain the alkaloid poison, lycorine, which causes vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, and sometimes death in humans and other animals.** Although *Lycoris* bulbs are considered to have low toxicity, homeowners should be aware of the poisonous potential of hurricane lilies, particularly if small children and pets are present.

**Type:** perennial

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5b through 9a

**Uses:** border; specimen; mass planting

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 12 to 24 inches  **Spread:** 12 inches

**Plant spacing:** 12 inches

**Light requirement:** sun to part sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic to alkaline; clay; sand; silt; loam

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Photo: UF/IFAS

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