

Spider Lily

Lycoris radiata

The most common hurricane lily is *Lycoris radiata* var. *radiata* (also known as red spider lily), producing red-orange flowers. This plant is sterile, preventing it from forming seeds and causing it to be free-flowering. Without the burden of producing seeds this plant is also very fast growing, resulting in large clumps of bulbs that can be separated and planted. *Lycoris radiata* var. *radiata* is vigorous and produces bulbs so prolifically that it is far more common than its smaller, seed-producing form known as *Lycoris radiata* var. *pumila*. This plant has naturalized and is considered an "heirloom plant" in the southern US. Plant spider lilies in late summer or early fall in a sunny or lightly shaded spot that has moist, well-drained soil. **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, gardeners should be aware of the poisonous potential of these spider 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: full 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

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Photo: UF/IFAS