



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article August 22, 2016

### Rain Lilies Emerge

by Lydia Holley

Rain lilies acquired their common name because they suddenly appear after a good rain. They have popped up recently in gardens, lawns, and even along neglected stretches of roadsides, happy with the rain we have been receiving. They are a surprise and a delight to see after the dry weather we experienced this summer.



There are numerous types of rain lilies. There are so many that it would be hard not to find one that would be appropriate to your garden. They come in a variety of colors - white, pink, and various shades of yellow. There are rain lilies that are native to Texas, some that are native to other areas of the U.S., while others are native to other countries. Some grow as tall as 15 inches, while others are much shorter at around 6 inches tall. Some have blooms that are as large as 3 inches across, while others have much smaller and daintier 1 inch-sized blooms. Some will bloom in spring, some in autumn. There are even some rain lilies that will bloom in the evening.

Rain lilies have thin leaves, resembling the sword-shaped leaves of grass. Some rain lilies have evergreen foliage, while some have foliage that is deciduous. The flowers rise up on a leafless stalk. Most tend to multiply with the passing years, and a large stand of rain lilies blooming all at once is a joyous sight to see.

If you so choose, rain lilies can be grown in pots. While you're waiting for the rain to perform its magic on these sweet little plants, you can enjoy their delicate foliage. Many people choose to plant rain lilies near the front of their garden beds, where their miniature blooms are the center of attention for the brief period of time they choose to appear.

You may also plant rain lilies in your lawn, where they may naturalize freely. Since there are so many different kinds of rain lilies, you may want to plant more than one type in your garden. Look for rain lilies under the genera of *Zephyranthes* or *Habranthus*. Dreary, wet weather will have you gleefully anticipating the rain lily's emergence, bringing joy and beauty into your life and garden no matter which type you choose to plant.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org](http://www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org).