



Lilium michiganese* – Michigan Lily

COMMON NAME: Michigan Lily

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lilium michiganese* – from the Greek word *lirion* meaning “lily” and “from Michigan”

FLOWER: 1 – 8 nodding flowers in a whorl at the top of the stem. Each flower has 6 reddish orange petals (“tepals”) fading to more yellowish at the base and with numerous purple-brown spots. The tepals curve back. There are 6 long brown-tipped stamens.

BLOOMING PERIOD: late June through much of August

SIZE: 3 to 6 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Michigan lily often grows as single plant in the wild, but can form large groups.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows best in damp soils in wet prairies and alongside streams in full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Ontario and New York west to Minnesota and South Dakota, south to Alabama and Louisiana, and west to Oklahoma. This lily grows naturally in most of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The distinctive curved back tepals help to identify this plant. The stem is round and smooth and the leaves grow in whorls of 5 to 9 around it.

SUGGESTED CARE: Mulch around the base of the plant to keep the bulb cooler.

COMPANION PLANTS: Grows in many open plant communities, especially in wet prairies along with purple meadow rue, mountain mint and wild strawberry.

*** Note:** While this plant is often called “Turk’s Cap Lily”, it is a misnomer because the Turk’s Cap Lily is not native to Wisconsin. There are three very similar, but separate species: Turk’s Cap Lily, Michigan Lily and Canada Lily. The color of the bulb, curving of the tepals, color of anthers, and height of the plant help to distinguish the species.