



**Botanical name:** Sprekelia formosissima

**Common name:** Jacobean Lily, Aztec Lily

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae:

**Sub-family:** Amaryllidoideae

**Origin:** Central America

**Habit:** Strappy leaf bulbous plant

**Height:** 30 x 20cm

**Flowers:** are similar to Hippeastrum but differs in two major respects – flowers are solitary and the petals are irregular. The uppermost petal is very wide, the two lateral petals are strap-shaped, the lowest petal is two-lipped, and the other two lower

**Cultivation:** Bulbs should be planted in spring or autumn with the top of the bulb barely exposed. I have never lifted my bulbs and they come back year after year. Lifting of bulbs or potting up should be done in autumn. Good as a houseplant or shade house specimen or pots. In winter mulch with well-rotted manure to produce bigger flowers.

**Prune:** remove dead leaves and spent flower stalks during growing season.

**Propagation:** the preferred method is from offsets from the parent bulb and potted into separate pots. Can also be grown from seed into a friable soil mix kept moist not wet. Small bulbs for after

petals curl toward the base and form a tube. Deep crimson flowers are produced on 30-45cm high stalks. Stamen filaments are also deep crimson. Flowers are long lasting.

**Bulb:** quite large and tunicated (having concentric layers). On occasions large bulb will produce more than one flower stalk.

**Seeds:** flat, black winged seeds are produced from a fruit capsule and can be harvested when the 3-valved pod splits open.

**Foliage:** is produced after the flowers, is narrow and straplike, with a sharp point.

**Climate:** Sprekelia does best in cool to Mediterranean climates but will do well in the sub-tropics as long as the neck of the bulb is above the soil surface.

**Aspect:** full sun to part shade in hot climates

**Soil:** Well drained. Keep well-watered until the foliage dies down. In areas of high rainfall care should be taken so water does not accumulate around the bulb's neck.

one season and can them be individually potted.

**Drought/Frost:** mildly drought tolerant once established. Mildly frost tolerant.

**Pests/Diseases:** none specifically noted, but may get mealy bug in certain conditions. The most noted issue is rotting of the bulb due to inadequate drainage and too much water during the winter dormant period.

**NOTE:**

- Sprekelia not true lilies
- Sprekelia is monotypic and was named by Linnaeus<sup>1</sup> in honour of J H van Sprekelsen, of Hamburg who sent the plat to him in 1658.
- There is a white form and a crimson bordered with white (var. karwinskii). These are very rare.
- Can hybridise easily with hippeastrums and some hybrids are available.
- Genus now merged into the Zephyranthes

<sup>1</sup> Carl Linnaeus was a Swedish botanist, zoologist, taxonomist, and physician who formalised binomial nomenclature

**Source:**

[https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/pastures/Html/White\\_clover.htm#Scientific%20name\(s\)](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/pastures/Html/White_clover.htm#Scientific%20name(s))

<https://bee-effect.co.za/white-clover-honey-bees/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trifolium\\_repens#:~:text=Trifolium%20repens%2C%20the%20white%20clover,previously%20referred%20to%20as%20Leguminosae\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trifolium_repens#:~:text=Trifolium%20repens%2C%20the%20white%20clover,previously%20referred%20to%20as%20Leguminosae).)

[https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/trifolium\\_repens.htm#:~:text=white%20clover%20\(Trifolium%20repens\)%20has,leaf%20forks%20\(i.e.%20axils\).](https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/trifolium_repens.htm#:~:text=white%20clover%20(Trifolium%20repens)%20has,leaf%20forks%20(i.e.%20axils).)

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