INTRODUCTION

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The most important genus of the Family Liliaceae for the garden is probably Lilium, the true Lilies, all of which are N temperate bulbous plants with leafy stems and large funnel - or bell-shaped flowers (usually) in terminal racemes.

These true lilies have long been known as "Garden Aristocrats" or Noble plants. They add dignified glory to so many gardens and when they are grown in pots or used as cut flowers, the same dignified beauty prevails. The flowers favorite in various ways and at all sorts of festive occasions particularly for Easter season.

Lily bulbs in all instances, are composed of fleshy overlapping scales and are of a size usually proportionate to the stem and flowers produced. However, Lilium species are generally propagated vegetatively by bulb scales, bulblets (produced from axils of bulb scales) or bulbils (produced from the above-ground leaf axils). Species vary in their ability to produce bulblets and areial bulbils.

The environmental conditions as well as the genetical factors play a great role on bulblets and bulbils formation.

Bulbils are not produced normally in Lilium longiflorum Thunb, but are occasionally produced under low irradiance and moist conditions. Due to such reasons, using the scales broken out from the bulbs is the main method for propagation of L. longiflorum.Thunb on large scale.

Besides the prementioned method, the Lilium longiflorum. stem cuttings practised in suitable media and treated with some growth regulators may offer the possibility of a new introduced method for the production of lily bulbils. Also, investigating the nutritional requirements for both bulbils and bulbs of lily may be helpful for both growth and flowering.

The aim of this investigation was to study the effect of media, nutrition and growth regulators on the propagation and growth of Lilium longiflorum. Thunb.