

Oxblood Lillies



Common Names: Oxblood lilies, Schoolhouse lilies

Botanical Name: *Rhodophiala bifida*

Blooms: Fall, prompted by autumn rains; bright deep red blooms

Height: Flower stalk 12-15", later developing foliage 18-24"

Light: Full sun to medium shade

Heat tolerance: Drought-tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping

Water requirements: Drought-tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping

Propagation: Dig up and divide bulbs in early summer as the leaves begin to die down. Small bulbs may take one or two years to flower.

Oxblood lilies are in the same category as Spider Lilies and Rainlilies in that they are a bulbous perennial that add color to our gardens in the fall. They originated in Argentina and were introduced in central Texas by a German-Texas plantsman named Heinrich Oberwetter. They usually bloom after it rains in early fall and the green foliage remains throughout winter and early spring. The foliage then yellows and disappears in summer (goes dormant). They are adapted to heavy clay or deep, sandy soils and do not like a lot of water during the summer months. Division of clumps can be done at any season but is best in the summer so that their bloom cycle is not interrupted.