

Song of Solomon 2:2, “As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.”



As you read these facts concerning the lily and its enemy, the weed, discuss the spiritual application.

Some facts concerning the lily:

- 1) There are 108 genres in the Liliaceae family. That’s a huge family.
- 2) There are many imposters. Many plants have 'lily' as part of their common name, like daylily, surprise lily or calla lily, but these are not true lilies. Only plants in the genus *Lilium* are considered true lilies. Lilies grow from bulbs made of fleshy overlapping scales that don't have any protective outer husk or cover.
- 3) In the Victorian era, lilies earned the meaning "majesty," white lily “purity” and lily of the valley “return of happiness.” *A Victorian Flower Dictionary* also reveals that people of that era would often wear them in their hair or pinned to evening gowns, and that young girls would pose with lilies in photographs.
- 4) The Egyptians were among the first to use cosmetics and included lily extract in their scented oils and ointments. The scent of lilies often appears in popular fragrances today.
- 5) For best results, lilies are planted in groups of three or five identical bulbs. Creating a triangle pattern provides for the most impressive display.

- 6) Nearly all the white lilies are scented. Most of the other colored varieties are completely devoid of any perfume or scent.
- 7) Lilies have also been known and used for medicinal purposes since long time. Lily containing medications were used to treat toxicity and depression.

Some facts concerning weeds:

- 1) While some weeds are not particularly aggressive and blend in with the surrounding plants, making them hardly noticeable, others are distinctly destructive.
- 2) Weeds are generally plants that have absolutely no redeeming value as far as food, nutrition or medicine are concerned. They have accelerated growth patterns and often leave seeds to perpetuate their kind. Weeds are often poisonous if eaten, taste bad, have thorns or other physical features making them difficult to remove.
- 3) Weeds compete with flowers, grasses, vegetables and fruit plants for water, sunlight and nutrients leaving non-weed plants starving. This loss of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium leaves them weak and prone to insect and disease infestation. Because most weeds grow at such an astounding rate, they often absorb more of one nutrient than another, leaving an imbalance. This overwhelms other plants often causing abnormal color, flower and fruit growth.
- 4) The devastation that invasive weeds inflict is well documented, particularly because they are so successful in competing for space if not kept in check. Particularly devastating are invasive weeds that take over areas outside of its natural habitat. These weeds are all the more successful in killing neighboring plants as insects, disease and local wildlife generally stay away from something that is not familiar.
- 5) Plants that are not necessarily considered a weed in the true sense, can also wreak havoc on neighboring plants by attaching themselves and sapping its nutrients. These parasitic plants are either stem or root parasites, with the root variety being more common. Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is a prime example of a parasitic plant that attaches itself to a host plant in order to obtain water and nutrients. Mistletoe can leave a host plant weak, causing it to eventually succumb to starvation, disease or pest infestation.

When the “thorns” of life surround us, like the lily let us look upwards towards the “Son” and feel His love shining upon us.