



The BCLS Landscape Services Guide to Growing Daylilies

DESCRIPTION

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis hybrids*) are strong, trouble-free and long-lived perennials. In addition to the familiar orange and yellow flower colors, varieties are available with red, pink, apricot, gold, and bicolor flowers. Each flower lasts for only about one day (hence the name "Daylily"), but each plant produces many flowers over a period of several or more weeks. Most Daylilies bloom in early, mid or late summer, depending on variety. The compact-growing Daylily, 'Stella D'Oro', is an exception and continues blooming through summer to frost.

LANDSCAPE USES

Their abundant flowers and the handsome texture of their arching, strap-shaping leaves make Daylilies one of our most valued and versatile perennials. Daylilies are most effective when massed (in groups of six or more) to form a thick, lush specimen clump to provide color and texture for a perennial border, or at the edge of a stream or pond. Plant several varieties together for blooms all summer (e.g., early, mid, late varieties) or for a range of colors.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Plant Daylilies in a sunny or partly sunny location (at least 1/2 day sunlight). Remove any grass or weeds from the plant bed, and then mix soil well with Peat Moss or Compost and Bulb-tone (4-10-6) Fertilizer. Space plants 12" apart within the bed clumps or plant in two or more staggered rows. (Tip: To remove plants from the container, place one hand on top of the soil to support rootball, invert the container, and gently tap. The plant should slide out fairly easy). Dig holes twice the width of the plant container, and set plants so that the depth of the roots in the soil is the same as their original depth in the container. Keep the crown (base of the stem) at its original soil level. Fill the remainder of the hole with the soil mixture, and tamp firmly with hands. Water gently and thoroughly after planting, and regularly thereafter (once or twice per week). Spread a 2" layer of Buckwheat Hull or Pine Bark Mulch in the bed to conserve moisture and discourage weed growth. Your Daylilies should grow and spread to form a solid, vigorous clump or bed.

ANNUAL CARE

Very easy. Each year, topdress bed with additional mulch as required. For best results, feed Daylilies lightly in spring and fall with Bulbstone (4-10-6) or 5-10-5 Fertilizer. After frost, leave the dead foliage to provide additional winter mulch. In colder locations, mulch lightly with Salt Hay. Remove dead foliage and Salt Hay mulch in spring, to allow new growth to develop.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Peat Moss or Compost
Bulbstone or 5-10-5 Fertilizer
Buckwheat Hull, Pine Bark or Salt Hay Mulch

HELPFUL EQUIPMENT:

Handfork
Garden Spade
Trowel

REFERENCES:

ALL ABOUT PERENNIALS (Ortho Books)
THE COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DAYLILIES (Timber Press)