



Daylily Care

Daylilies are an easy-to-care-for perennial which can enhance any landscape. They come in a variety of colors and range in size from one foot to 6 feet, though most are from 18 inches to 36 inches. They have a tuberous root system and can be either deciduous or evergreen.

Daylilies can be used in clumps, in mass plantings for flowerbed borders, as ground covers, or in containers.

Their lily-like blossoms are excellent as cut flowers. Daylilies should be cut in the morning, when the bloom is fully opened, and stems with multiple buds should be cut when buds are well-developed. Multiple buds will open one per day. The previous day's blossom should be cut off daily.

Tip: After being cut, daylilies should be refrigerated for about an hour with their stems in water to make them last longer.

PLANTING

Daylilies prefer a medium heavy, slightly acid to neutral soil with adequate drainage. An alkaline soil may cause foliage to yellow. Soil mix is an excellent addition to existing beds.

Mulch with a thin layer of bark mulch. After planting, water in with root stimulator solution according to label directions. When choosing your location, bear in mind that most daylilies will perform best in full sun; however, full sun tends to fade dark blooms.

WATERING

In the Brazos Valley, established daylilies should not need watering unless a dry period occurs prior to or during flowering, when excessive dryness may cause buds to drop. Be sure to keep newly planted daylilies moist at all times.

FEEDING

Feed established daylilies with blooming plant fertilizer, 3-9-12. Excessive nitrogen may cause yellowing of the leaves and may reduce the brilliance of red and pink varieties. Daylilies should be fed lightly at two to four week intervals from mid March through mid June, and once again in mid September. Be sure to water when feeding, if weather conditions are dry and warm. Daylilies respond well to bone meal, which should be applied every spring at the rate of 5 lbs per 100 sq ft of bed area.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Thrips present the most serious problem to daylilies. This insect causes distorted and discolored flowers. Spraying with diazinon or malathion according to label recommendation should control this problem.

GENERAL CARE

Once established, daylilies are easy to maintain. Large clumps may be divided in late fall to early spring (remove any dead foliage and cultivate shallowly between plants to prevent weed growth).