



JACKIE FROEMMING, EXTENSION EDUCATOR
218-828-2323 / FROEM022@UMN.EDU

DAYLILIES: THE PERFECT PERENNIALS

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Native to Asia
- Genus *Hemerocallis*...named after habit of producing flowers that open for only one day before they shrivel and die
- Approximately 30 species
- More than 70,000 cultivars (“hybrids”) registered with the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS)
- Herbaceous plants that are highly adaptable, easy to grow, extremely low-maintenance, quick to multiply and virtually pest-free and disease-free.

SELECTING CULTIVARS

- Genetic Content = Diploid, Tetraploid
- Foliage Habit = Dormant, Semi-Evergreen, Evergreen
- Flowers: Blooming Times = Early, Midseason, Late
- Flowers: Blooming Habits = Diurnal, Nocturnal, Extended, Rebloomer
- Flowers: Height = Dwarf (less than 12”), Low (12”-24”), Medium (24”-36”), Tall (over 36”)
- Flower: Size = Miniature (less than 3”), Small (3”-4.5”), Large (4.5”-11”)
- Flowers: Number of Petals: Single (3 petals), Double (more than 3 petals)
- Flowers: Form (Front View) = Circular, Triangular, Spider, Star, Exotic & Unusual Forms
- Flowers: Form (Side View) = Flat, Recurved, Pinched
- Flowers: Colors = Yellow and Gold, Orange and Peach, Pink, Red, Purple, (Almost) White, (Almost) Black
- Flowers: Patterns = Self, Bitone, Bicolor, Eyed, Banded, Watermark, Edged
- Awards from AMH = Stout Silver Medal <http://www.daylilies.org/stoutmedal.html>

PLANTING AND DIVIDING

- Set in ground so crown is about 1” below soil
- Space plants at least 2’ apart
- As for fertilizers:
 - annual fertilization (10-10-10) may be helpful in producing more flowers
 - spring application of manure or compost is beneficial each year
- Divide every 3-4 years
- Divide in spring as new growth is emerging or in the fall at least 4 weeks before ground freezes
<http://climate.umn.edu/doc/historical/soilfrez.htm>

LANDSCAPING WITH DAYLILIES

- Full sun and well-drained, rich soil
- Note - dark-colored flowers will fade less if planted in more shaded areas
- Note - humidity and soil moisture are critical in fragrance expression
- Use as specimen plant or in mass planting
- Consider height and color:
 - use tall cultivars as background plants and short cultivars as border plants
 - use lighter-colored flowers with dark backgrounds
- Achieve continuous bloom from spring to first frost by choosing different cultivars with varied bloom times
- Since daylilies tolerate tree roots and many soil types, they are ideal for tough sites!!
- Consider using daylilies as ground cover on difficult slopes
- In containers...
 - Use 15"-18" containers for short cultivars / Use larger pots for taller cultivars
 - In the fall, plant in the ground at least 4 weeks before the ground freezes
- A word of caution...daylilies with rhizomes!! Not present in cultivars ("modern daylilies") but rather in wild species

DISEASES AND PESTS

- Diseases: Leaf Streak, Daylily Rust, Southern Blight
- Pests: Spider mites and aphids, grasshoppers and Japanese beetles, slugs and snails, deer and rabbits
- <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/garden/> *What's Wrong With My Plant?*

RESOURCES

- Daylily Society of Minnesota
- American Hemerocallis Society
- *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Daylilies*. D. Grenfell. Timber Press. 2002.
- *The New Encyclopedia of Daylilies*. T.L. Petit and P. Peat. Timber Press. 2008.
- *Landscaping with Daylilies*. O. Billingslea. AHS. 2012.
- *The Illustrated Guide to Daylilies*. Oliver Billingslea. American Hemerocallis Society. 2015.