

# Daylily Care



**REASONS  
WHY THE  
DAYLILY IS**

**THE PERFECT  
PERENNIAL!**

1. Available in a rainbow of colors and a variety of shapes and sizes.
2. Able to survive with very little care in a wide range of climates.
3. Suitable for all types of landscapes.
4. Drought resistant and almost disease and insect free.
5. Adaptable to various soil and light conditions.



Visit our website at: [www.westernreservedaylilysociety.org](http://www.westernreservedaylilysociety.org)

Information courtesy of the American Hemerocallis Society website [www.daylilies.org](http://www.daylilies.org)

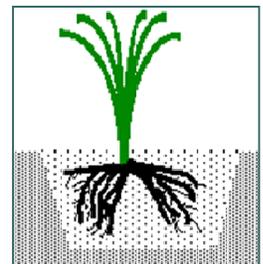
## What is a daylily?

The scientific name for daylily is *Hemerocallis*, most recently considered to belong in the plant family Hemerocallidaceae. Previously, daylilies were placed in the Lily family, Liliaceae. The word Hemerocallis is derived from two Greek words meaning *beauty* and *day*, referring to the fact that each flower lasts only one day. To make up for this, there are many flower buds on each daylily flower stalk, and many stalks in each clump of plants, so, the flowering period of a clump is usually several weeks long. Many cultivars have more than one flowering period.

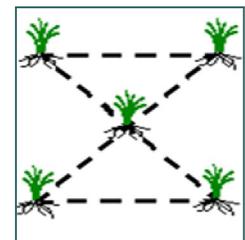
## How do I plant daylilies?

- New daylily plants should be soaked for a few hours in water or in a weak solution of liquid fertilizer.
- The soil where you intend to plant your daylilies should be worked into a good loose condition to a depth of at least one foot.
- Dig a hole larger than the root mass.
- Make a mound in the center of the hole.
- Set the plant in place with the roots spread on all sides of the mound.
- New plants should be planted about as deep as they grew originally. The original depth can be determined easily by the band of white at the base of the foliage which indicates the part of the plant which was underground. Do not set the crown (the point where the foliage and roots join) more than one inch below the surface of the soil.
- Work the soil around and between the roots as you cover the plant.
- Firm the soil and water well.
- Make sure that there are no air pockets; this can cause the plant to grow poorly.
- When all the water has soaked in, finish filling the soil, leaving a slight

depression around the plant.



- Daylilies should be spaced no less than 18 to 24 inches apart.



## How do I care for my daylilies?

### Watering

Water is essential for good daylily performance.

Water, supplied in sufficient amounts, almost certainly increases the number and size of daylily blooms.

For daylilies, watering is most important in spring when the plants are making scapes and buds, and in the summer during the bloom season.

Daylilies benefit more from deep watering, which reaches 8 to 10 inches into the soil, than from a succession of brief, surface watering.

*Caution 1:* Overhead watering during the heat of the day will cause any open blooms to spot and/or wilt.

*Caution 2:* Watering in the evening can also cause spots on the next day's blooms.

*Caution 3:* Be careful not to over-water.

### Fertilizing

Daylilies grow in a wide range of soils and conditions.

- To determine the nutrient needs of your soil, take a soil sample and have it analyzed. Contact your local county agricultural agent for instructions.
- Daylilies can do well over a relatively wide soil pH range and adjustment of pH need only be considered if the plants appear to be doing poorly. A soil test as recommended above should always be conducted before amending with sulfur or lime.
- In the average home garden, a single fertilizer application in the spring is usually sufficient, although even that may not be necessary every year.
- In extremely poor soils or on light or sandy soils which tend to leach badly, more frequent application may be required. Consult with your local agriculture office for recommendations suitable to your soil and climate.

### Mulching

Mulching, although not essential in every area, generally does contribute to better daylilies by improving the soil and helping retain moisture.

### Grooming

Keep your garden neat and tidy.

- Many gardeners remove the day's blooms at the end of the day to give their gardens a pristine appearance.
- If you hybridize, expect to leave the pollinated blooms on the plants until the blossom sheds and the tiny seed pod is formed.

### Sanitation

Proper sanitation measures lead to healthier daylilies. In the spring, dead foliage and debris should be cleared away from around your daylilies.

- During the growing season, damaged or diseased foliage should be removed.
- At the end of the bloom season, cut off the bloom scapes to within a few inches of the ground unless you are hybridizing.



**Rae Dickens, President**  
[oscar143@windstream.net](mailto:oscar143@windstream.net)

**Gigi Beckman, Vice President**  
[gbeckman@windstream.net](mailto:gbeckman@windstream.net)

**Sheryl Miller, Secretary**  
[pa\\_miller@roadrunner.com](mailto:pa_miller@roadrunner.com)

**Jim Simmons, Treasurer**  
[janddflowers@gmail.com](mailto:janddflowers@gmail.com)

**Delmar Dickens, Liaison**  
[oscar143@windstream.net](mailto:oscar143@windstream.net)

