



# Tidewater Daylily Society

...promoting "The Perfect Perennial"



[Tidewaterdaylilysociety.org](http://Tidewaterdaylilysociety.org)

## Growing Daylilies Fact Sheet

The daylily (genus *Hemerocallis*) is just about the perfect perennial flowering plant for the gardener who wants beautiful flowers with a minimum of care. It has become a mainstay of the mixed perennial border, a trouble free plant for landscapers, and a delightful hobby plant for collectors and amateur hybridizers.

"*Hemerocallis*" means "beauty for a day." Although each individual bloom lasts but a single day, a mature plant will have multiple scapes (flower stalks) with 10 to 35 or more blooms per scape, providing an exceptionally long season of bloom for a perennial. For the longest bloom season, look for known rebloomers with a high bud count and good branching.

Blooming for 2 - 8 weeks from May to October (peaking in Tidewater around Father's Day), daylilies now come in a sparkling array of colors, shapes, heights & sizes. Individual blooms may be from 1" to 12" in diameter, borne on scapes 6" to 48" or more in height. Colors run the full gamut from near-white through shades of yellow, gold, salmon, pink, red, lavender & purple to near black. Some have contrastingly colored eye zones or petal edges. Many modern hybrids exhibit ruffled petal edges, as well as double, spidery or unusual forms. There are close to 65,000 registered cultivars available today.

Daylilies grow under a wide range of cultural & climatic conditions. They are easy to grow in spite of the few problems they have, although deer find them quite tasty. Insects to watch for in the late winter and fall are aphids. In spring & summer you may find thrips and mites. A good organic product like insecticidal soap or Neem Oil will take care of all these. Leaf Streak (caused by a fungus) may appear in the spring & Rust may appear in the summer or fall. An all purpose fungicide can prevent these, but the fungi will not kill the plant.

As tough as they are, daylilies will pay extra dividends in performance & beauty if you provide conditions as near ideal as you can manage. They do well in most soil types, from heavy clays to open sandy types, but prefer a good garden soil rich in organic matter. The optimum pH is neutral to slightly acid. While poor winter drainage may foster root and crown rot (as with most plants), copious extra water during the growing season will pay dividends in strong growth and in the largest, choicest blooms. Mulching with most any organic material helps conserve moisture and helps hold down weeds.

Daylilies are relatively heavy feeders, needing more fertilizer than most other perennials. A complete fertilizer such as Plant Tone, Flower Tone, Osmocote or Nursery Special can be applied in March and July. Foliar feeding about every 6 weeks with Miracle Gro mixed with Epsom Salts, Iron Chelate, & Fish Emulsion will promote better rebloom.

Plant your daylilies in full sun where possible. A minimum of 6 hours of sunlight is necessary. Many cultivars perform well in "high shade" or afternoon shade, especially some of the reds & dark colors which tend to fade or "slick" in our strong Virginia sun. Too much shade will cause the scapes to lean toward the light, if they develop at all.

Daylilies are best planted or divided & reset in Tidewater from March to September, although we have had success at any time we can get into the soil. Some evergreen cultivars should be moved by mid-August to have time for adequate root development before winter & possible heaving problems. Protecting your new plants with a little extra mulch or perhaps a light covering of pine boughs is good insurance against loss during their first winter with you. Once established, this shouldn't be necessary.

When planting newly acquired bareroot plants, get them in the ground as soon as possible. Spread the roots over a cone of soil with the crown at ground level. Cover the roots with soil and firm it with your hands. Do not plant too deeply. Build a berm around the plant to catch the water. Soak the root system thoroughly with "root stimulator" mixed in water according to directions. Water sparingly until it "takes hold" & starts to grow. Older leaves will turn yellow, so just remove them.

Old foliage can be cut back in January or February before the new growth starts to push out.

There is something to be said for obtaining your plants from sources in or near the climatic zone in which you garden. The safest rule of thumb is to buy varieties you like & have seen growing well in gardens in your area. You'll be sure that "what you see is what you get!"

To view or buy a variety of daylilies that grow in our area, contact one of our local daylily growers. Calling first is recommended, unless otherwise noted.

**TO VISIT ANY OF THESE GARDENS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [TIDEWATERDAYLILYSOCIETY.ORG](http://TIDEWATERDAYLILYSOCIETY.ORG) FOR DATES AND TIMES. THESE GARDENS ARE NOMALLY OPEN IN THE MONTH OF JUNE.**

**Bunting Daylily Garden**

AHS Display Garden  
John Bunting  
57 W. Sandy Point Rd  
Poquoson, VA 23662  
(757) 868-7059

[jnlbunting@cox.net](mailto:jnlbunting@cox.net)

**Cachalot Farm**

Bill Dupaul  
6522 Jarvis Rd.  
Ware Neck, VA 23178  
(804) 693-6742 or (804) 815-6234  
Potted & bareroot seedlings &  
cultivars

**Sterrett Gardens**

[www.sterrettgardens.com](http://www.sterrettgardens.com)

AHS Display Garden  
Richard & Rikki Sterrett  
Craddockville, Va. 23341  
(757) 442-4606

[sterrettgarden@msn.com](mailto:sterrettgarden@msn.com)

. Free plant for children

**Sweetland Daylilies**

Ralph Sweetland  
3613 Dunedin Ct.,  
Chesapeake, VA 23321  
(757) 686-8407

**Eileen Walsh**

[eileenjoe3612@msn.com](mailto:eileenjoe3612@msn.com)  
3612 Manchester Lane VB 23452  
757 630-1614

**Sandy White, River's Edge**

[sajowa@aol.com](mailto:sajowa@aol.com)  
221 Arrowfield Road VB 23454  
757 486-3309

**For viewing only, visit one of these gardens:**

**Cash Daylily Garden**

Lissa Cash  
111 Seabreeze Lane  
Suffolk VA 23435  
(757) 483-5961

**Kathi's Garden**

Kathi & LeRoy Griffin  
94 Hopkins St.  
Newport News VA 23601  
(757)-223-9591

**Chesapeake Arboretum**

624 Oak Grove Rd.  
Chesapeake, VA

**Hampton Roads Agricultural**

Research & Extension Center  
Diamond Springs Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA  
TDS Daylily Display Bed plus VA  
Hybridizers Bed

**Norfolk Botanical Garden**

6700 Azalea Garden Road  
Norfolk, Virginia 23518-5337