

## PLANTING YOUR NEW DAYLILY

Here are a few tips to help you produce the healthiest plants and get the most increase.

- 1- Plant your new plant as soon as possible after you receive it, either directly in the ground or in a pot to plant in the ground later.
- 2- When you plant, add some lime, fertilizer and organic matter into the soil and mix it up well before putting the roots in the ground.
- 3- Bury the roots only to the crown of the plant, no deeper.
- 4- Build a berm around the plant so that when you water, the water will slowly sink in around the roots.
- 5- Water in thoroughly and then use a root stimulant such as Ortho Upstart or Fertilome Root Stimulator mixed according to directions. A dilute solution of high phosphorous soluble fertilizer, 10-16-10, 15-30-15, mixed at half the recommended rate can also be used.
- 6- DO NOT WATER the plant again until you see that it is putting up new growth from where it has been cut back. Keeping a newly planted bareroot plant too wet in the beginning can cause it to rot.
- 7- After it has taken hold and started to grow, water it once or twice a week during the growing season.
- 8- Daylilies are heavy feeders, so make sure it is well fertilized during the growing season. Different growers like various mixes, but a good feeding in March and June with an all-purpose slow release fertilizer supplemented with foliar feedings of the Hooker Formula about every 6 weeks until September will give you very good growth.
- 9- Label your plant well. Bury one label in the ground, as a back up, in case your dog or grandchild decides to un-label them. Put another label so you can read it. Pencil written on plastic or wood lasts longer than Sharpies, which fade in less than a year. Paint pens are also good as are label makers and laser printers.
- 10- Mulch your plants with 2-3 inches of mulch to help minimize weed competition and conserve moisture.
- 11- Watch for the following pests and treat as needed:
  - a. Aphids – love cool weather and you will see them mostly in the fall, winter and early spring down in the folds of the leaves. They have sucking mouth parts and cause distortion of leaves and buds.
  - b. Thrips – usually appear in force when the weather starts to get warm in April - May and multiply very quickly in dryer weather. They have sucking/rasping mouthparts and cause much ugliness to your daylily buds and flowers. They are tiny and difficult to see, but the damage is obvious. If you've had them in the past, expect them again and start treating right before they usually start to cause damage.
  - c. Spider Mites – not as big a problem as thrips, but can cause a drying of the leaves; worst in hot dry weather. Overhead watering will help wash them away.
  - d. Leaf Streak is a fungus that makes the leaves look unsightly. Some cultivars are much more susceptible to it. A preventive all purpose fungicide used in April will usually keep the foliage looking clean from leaf streak damage.

- e. Rust usually does not survive over winter outdoors here in Tidewater. Therefore, it doesn't usually show up here until September, when the season is almost over. However, if you receive new plants from Florida or regions where rust does over winter, you may see it in your garden earlier, in the spring or summer. The flowers are not affected, but the orange pustules on the foliage can be so numerous as to make the plant look horrible. The spores can blow for over a mile, so segregating the new plants in your garden doesn't work. You can soak the new plant in Zerotel or a weak solution of bleach (6oz. bleach in 5 gal water) for 5-10 minutes. This may destroy all the rust spores on the new plant.

Rot can be caused by several factors, but planting in poorly drained soil that stays constantly wet and/or planting too deep can be major contributing factors. Some have found that keeping the pH in the 6.2 to 6.8 range helps. This usually means adding lime in Tidewater, as our soils tend to be more acid than that. Dolomitic lime is best because it adds magnesium as well as calcium. Adding organic matter prior to planting will promote water infiltration and better plant growth.