

9-19-57

15,000 H.B. L-324

Daylilies



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
G. G. Gibson, Director, College Station, Texas

DAYLILIES

SADIE HATFIELD

*Extension Specialist in Homestead Improvement
Texas A. & M. College System*

The common varieties of daylily or *hemerocallis* are so easy to grow that they might be called the busy woman's favorite flowers. Some of the newer varieties, however, require a good deal of attention for best results. This hardy native of Asia grows wild in parts of East and Central Texas. It can hold its own with most grasses and small weeds but needs care if it is to compete with large weeds, shrubs and trees. It comes in many colors and grows from 1 foot to 4 feet or taller depending on varieties, care and location.

Growers should buy plants from a reliable nurseryman or florist. Plants grown from seed may be worthless because they often produce few blooms or inferior blooms.

DAYLILY NEEDS

Daylilies grow best in common garden soil that is fertile and contains humus. Overfertilizing makes tall weak plants. A 2 or 3-inch layer of well-decayed leaves or other vegetable matter and 5 pints of 5-10-5 fertilizer to each 100 square feet, spaded in deeply, improve poor soils. Half shade makes larger plants than full sunlight. Deep shade weakens the daylily, causes small plants and results in few blooms. Full afternoon sunlight fades some daylilies and it may burn tender leaves. Daylilies thrive in well-drained soil but can live in fairly wet places if some

drainage is provided. Dry, hard soil produces small plants and a few small blooms. Daylilies need plenty of moisture while flowering and when first set out. Moderate amounts are sufficient at other times.

Cold weather seldom destroys the daylily in Texas. In the colder parts of the State, evergreen daylilies may be killed to the ground in winter. Some gardeners leave the dead tops on to protect the roots from cold. To improve the appearance of the garden, remove the dead tops and replace them with a mulch of dead leaves and soil. Remove the mulch in early spring.

Daylilies can be set out at any time. In Texas, late August is the best time to divide them. August-planted daylilies require less water the next year than later plantings. Winter planting is better than in spring. Late planting may reduce the number of blooms. Large clumps may be divided and reset every 6 or 7 years. Dividing them more often may result in few blooms. If left longer, plants in the center usually crowd and die. Set out 2 feet apart. A good mulch reduces work in watering and weeding beds and keeps the roots cool.

To divide, raise the entire clon or clump and shake off the soil. Wash off the rest of the soil and then the plants can be separated easily.

DAYLILY ENEMIES

Thrips cause early yellowing and dying of the leaves and spoil flowers. It will pay to destroy the

plants that attract thrips. For valuable or rare plants, give good drainage, sun, moisture and fertile soil but not excessively rich soil. Healthy plants may be able to resist these pests.

The *tarnished plant bug* may take out sap.

Several kinds of *beetles* may eat on buds and blooms.

All insects mentioned here may be controlled with 5 percent to 10 percent chlordane or 5 percent to 10 percent DDT or 3 percent lindane dust.

Leafspot can be controlled with bordeaux mixture or other fungicides. Use as directed on the label.

USES OF DAYLILIES

Because daylilies are hardy, they grow in waste places. The thick roots of daylilies help fill ditches and save soil. They are ideal for rock gardens. Daylilies are attractive in front of green shrubs. They need to be planted at least 3 feet from shrub hedges or borders. Four or 5 feet should be allowed for tall-growing varieties. Some daylilies, such as No-siesta, will stay open at night. They are more useful as cut flowers than those which close their petals in the evening. Night-closing lilies last well because their many buds grow and open after they are cut and placed in water. In China, dried daylily flowers are used as food, chiefly in soups.

BLOOMS IN SPRING AND SUMMER

Early spring-flowering daylilies:

Apricot-Real apricot-colored flowers
on stems about 2 feet tall.

Gold Dust-Clear yellow with brown, 2
feet tall.

Sovereign-Deep yellow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall.
Open day and night.

Semper florens-Rich yellow, evergreen
leaves, 3 feet tall.

Late spring-flowering daylilies:

Ophir-Clear-yellow flowers, 4 feet
tall.

Cinnabar-Brownish-red flowers with
stems about 3 feet tall.

Queen of May-Evergreen leaves, light
-yellow, 4 feet tall
fragrant.

Hyperion-Light-yellow flowers, 3 feet
tall, fragrant.

Patricia-Yellow flowers, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet
tall, fragrant, open
night and day.

Summer-flowering daylilies:

Margaret Perry-Brownish-red flowers.

Mikado-Brown and orange, 3 feet tall,
almost evergreen leaves, very
hardy.

Hankow-Yellow-orange flowers on stems
about 3 feet tall.

Boutonniere-Peach-colored flowers on
stems about 3 feet tall.

Daylilies do not bloom the same
time every year. Bloom stalks should
be cut as soon as they finish bloom-
ing.

Ask about daylilies at nurseries, study catalogues and notice them at your friends' homes to find varieties adapted to your needs. New varieties are offered for sale nearly every year.



*Left, a large clump of daylily tubers.
Right, a clump after division has taken place.*