

Daylily Culture

- Daylilies demand a sunny location. Six hours is required for best bloom. In the pacific northwest soil temperature has a big impact.
- Daylilies tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions. Plant in well draining soil. You may improve moisture retention by amending with compost.
- Space your daylilies 1-1/2' to 2' apart and plant so the crown is no more than 1" deep. Avoid planting too deeply.
- Soak bare root plants for 2 - 3 hours before planting.
- Water well during bloom time especially during the first year. Less water = less bloom.
- Daylilies can be divided to produce more plants. Fall is the best time to divide and replant or pass a division along to a friend.

Pests

Gall midge is a new pest that affects early blooming daylilies. It is a small fly that overwinters in the soil and when the soil reaches an optimum temperature it lays eggs in developing flower buds. **No pesticides** are known to be effective at this time.

- Look for misshaped buds during early bloom
- Remove and destroy damaged buds by burning or using a chemical such as bleach. Do not place in your compost bin.
- One strategy is to use early blooming daylilies as TRAP plants to manage the damage. There is only one generation per year so later blooming varieties are not affected.

Daylily Resources

American Daylily Society www.daylilies.org to become a member and to access the daylily cultivar database of registered daylilies

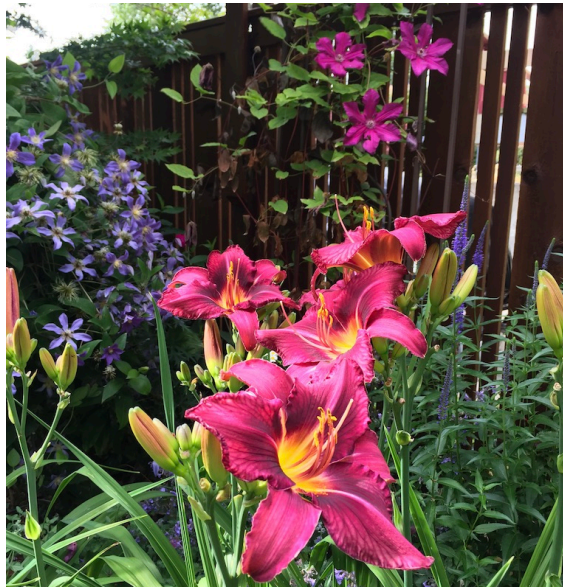
WSU Hortsense fact sheets for managing common garden plant problems
<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWeb.aspx?ProblemId=784>

Local Display Gardens

WSU Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens, Hovander Homestead County Park, Ferndale, WA

Southern Girl Daylilies, Marilyn Glenn & Steve Tatham, Bellingham, WA
email marilyn.glenn@comcast.net

Erikson's Daylily Gardens and Perennials, Pam & Tom Erikson, Langley, British Columbia, Canada
email pamerikson@uniserve.com



Discover Modern Daylilies

Whatcom County WSU Extension Master Gardener Program



When a gardener mentions daylilies people usually think of tawny orange daylilies or roadside daylilies. Today's modern daylilies derive from either *Hemerocallis fulva* - orange daylily or the lemon daylily which crossed the Atlantic with pilgrims. These immigrant daylilies moved west with settlers and planted beside farmhouse porches became known as homestead lilies.

Hybridization History

During the first fifty years of the twentieth century dedicated scientific study at the New York Botanical Garden took the immigrant daylily from being common to being a darling of American gardeners.

- Over 500 new daylily cultivars were hybridized by 1940
- Another 23,000 by 1980
- And today we have close to 90,000 registered cultivars on the American Daylily Society register

This exploitation of the daylily gene pool by gardening hybridizers has been a tremendous American success story.

Modern daylilies no longer have a classic trumpet shape formed by six flaring tepals of equal size tapering to a point. Nor do they run with their root systems.

Today's daylilies form well behaved clumps that pair well with other perennials. The journey from orange and yellow to today's array of colors and forms has had many chapters of breeding for specific plant characteristics.

Just imagine the excitement of cross pollinating two daylilies, saving and germinating the seed and then seeing the first true red daylily bloom. So much has been done in hybridizing that today's daylilies are being bred for multiple branching, seasonal rebloom and even a bloom that lasts for more than one day!

Daylilies are not Bulbs

A daylily is a flowering plant in the genus *Hemerocallis*. Despite the common name it is not a lily. Instead, daylilies are herbaceous perennials with blooms that only last for one day. A great performing daylily will provide multiple weeks of blooms in midsummer in the Pacific Northwest.

Your best place to see the diversity of daylilies is in a public display garden such as the Whatcom County Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at Hovander Homestead Park in Ferndale, WA. There are currently 75 daylilies planted. Some start blooming in June and some will continue their bloom into late August. Observation of these daylilies in a garden gives the gardener an opportunity to select and acquire daylilies for performance and not just a pretty picture in a catalog.



Daylily Varieties

Height

Daylilies grow from 12 inches to almost 5 feet in scape height, depending on the cultivar. Scape is the flower stalk with no leaves.

Color

Daylily blooms come in all colors except blue and may have a variety of distinctive markings such as an eye zone, petal edging, throat color or midribs.

Form

Daylily blooms have multiple forms Single, Double, Spider and Unusual forms of shape and structure. For example a spider daylily's petals have a length-to-width ratio of at least 4 to 1.

Bloom Size

Daylily blooms can be:
Miniatures - under 3" in diameter
Small flowers - 3-4.5" diameter
Large flowers - over 4.5" and under 7"
Extra large flowers - 7" or larger

Bloom Season

Daylily bloom period in the Pacific NW may be described as:
E - early blooming (mid June)
EM - early to mid-season (late June)
M - midseason (July)
ML - midseason to late bloom (late July/August)
L - late bloom August)
VL - very late (Sept/October)