

Growing Daylilies

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Daylilies are a very popular perennial for sunny locations. This member of the lily family requires only minimal maintenance and is rarely touched by insects or disease. Slender strap like leaves mound to form clumps any where from 1—3 ft. tall in the flower stalks, called scapes. Scapes are adorned with funnel or bell shaped flowers. Scapes range from 1– 6 ft. tall depending on the variety. Flower colors include shades of green, yellow, orange, red, purple, pink and cream. It is not uncommon for multiple colors to occur in one flower. New buds continue to form and bloom over a period of weeks with flowers ranging from 2”-7” wide, depending on the variety.

Site requirements

- For best results a full sun location is advised. Shade benefits plants with darker colors like red and purple.
- Loose soil which allows for good drainage is important. Heavy soils should be avoided.
- Organic matter should be added when preparing the soil. Plants perform better in fertilized soil.
- Established plants would benefit from a yearly spring addition of either a slow release or basic good fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 5-10-10.
- Mulching will help to retain soil moisture. Be sure to keep mulch back 2”-3” from the plant base.

Planting

The planting hole should be wide enough to accommodate the root system without crowding. Lightly break apart the root ball to encourage new root growth. Position the crown or top even with the surface of the planting site. Backfill with amended soil until the surface is reached. Tamp the soil slightly to eliminate any air pockets.

Dividing

Decreased bloom is a good indicator your plant is ready for division. This may not occur for 5 or more years after the initial planting. In spring or fall, dig out the clump to be divided. Remove excess soil. Look for natural separation points in the soil and then gently tease apart. Each division can be single, double or multiple fans. It is important to get a collection of roots with each fan. If the clump is extremely compacted it may need to be cut apart. Replant your new divisions in freshly prepared soil.

Grooming

Remove old flower stalks as they dry.
Remove old leaves as they yellow toward fall.



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