

WHERE TO PLANT:

You need to consider four things in determining where to plant your daylilies:

Sun or Shade

Most daylilies do best in full sun. They will tolerate part-shade conditions, but require a minimum of six hours of direct sun per day.

- Light yellow cultivars, many shades of pink, and delicate pastels need full sun to bring out their lovely colorings.
- Many red and purple cultivars benefit from partial shade in the hottest part of the day because dark colors absorb heat and do not withstand the sun as well as lighter colors.

Type of Soil

Like most plants, daylilies show maximum performance in soils with good aeration, fertility and microbial activity. The ideal soil holds sufficient moisture to sustain the plants, yet is at the same time well-drained. These characteristics can be improved in soils that have too much sand or clay by amending with compost.

Drainage

For maximum performance, daylilies should be planted in well-drained soil. In some regions raised beds may be beneficial where drainage is a problem. However raised beds should be approached with caution in cold winter regions as being elevated can make the plants more vulnerable to temperature extremes and fluctuations. Note also that raised beds generally require more irrigation during the summer.

Compatibility with Other Plants

Daylilies may not do well near or under trees that compete for moisture and nutrients. They are often reported to do well under pine trees, however, and each situation should be assessed individually. Plants that must compete with tree roots often do better if supplied with extra waterings.

HOW TO PLANT:

New daylily plants received bare-root by mail may be “parked” in damp sand or other suitable media until they can be planted. Many daylily enthusiasts like to soak the roots for a few hours or overnight in a bucket of water, however others do not agree with this practice. Some gardeners also include a weak fertilizer in the soaking water, but this isn’t necessary and, if too strong a solution, may actually be detrimental.

Before Planting

Make sure that your daylilies are clean and healthy before planting them.

The soil where you intend to plant your daylilies should be worked into a good loose condition to a depth of at least 1 foot.

- Dig a hole larger than the root mass.
- Make a mound in the center of the hole.
- Set the plant in place with the roots spread on all sides of the mound.
- New plants should be planted about as deep as they grew originally. The original depth can be determined easily by the band of white at the base of the foliage which indicates the part of the plant which was underground.
- Do not set the crown (i.e., the point where foliage and roots join) more than 1 inch below the surface of the soil.
- Work the soil around and between the roots as you cover the plant.
- Firm the soil and water well.
- Make sure that there are no air pockets; this can cause the plant to grow poorly.
- When all the water has soaked in, finish filling in the soil, leaving a slight depression around the plant.

Spacing

Daylilies should be spaced no less than 18 to 24 inches apart on each side.

Labeling

Label each of your daylilies with some type of permanent marker so as to identify them. A plant loses much of its value when its identification is lost.

HOW CARE FOR DAYLILIES:

The wise daylily gardener will apply a proper cultural program which includes watering, fertilizing, mulching, possibly spraying, grooming, controlling weeds, and sanitation.

Watering

Water is essential for good daylily performance.

- Water, supplied in sufficient amounts, almost certainly increases the number and size of daylily blooms.
- For daylilies, watering is most important in spring when the plants are making scapes and buds, and in the summer during the bloom season.
- Daylilies benefit more from deep watering, which reaches 8 to 10 inches into the soil, than from a succession of brief, surface waterings.
- Caution 1: Overhead watering during the heat of the day will cause any open blooms to spot and/or wilt.
- Caution 2: Watering in the evening can also cause spots on the next day's blooms.
- Caution 3: Be careful not to over water.

Fertilizing

Daylilies grow in a wide range of soils and conditions.

- To determine the nutrient needs of your soil, take a soil sample and have it analyzed. Contact your local county agricultural agent for instructions.
- Daylilies can do well over a relatively wide soil pH range and adjustment of pH need only be considered if the plants appear to be doing poorly. A soil test as recommended above should always be conducted before amending with sulfur or lime.
- In the average home garden, a single fertilizer application in the spring is usually sufficient, although even that may not be necessary every year.
- In extremely poor soils or on light or sandy soils which tend to leach badly, more frequent application may be required. Consult with your local agriculture office for recommendations suitable to your soil and climate.

Mulching

Mulching, although not essential in every area, generally does contribute to better daylilies by improving the soil and helping retain moisture.

Grooming

Keep your garden neat and tidy.

- Many gardeners remove the day's blooms at the end of the day to give their gardens a pristine appearance.
- If you hybridize, expect to leave the pollinated blooms on the plants until the blossom sheds and the tiny seed pod is formed.

Controlling Weeds

The most effective weed control measures for the home garden are mulching and hoeing.

Sanitation

Proper sanitation measures lead to healthier daylilies.

- In the spring, dead foliage and debris should be cleared away from around your daylilies.
- During the growing season, damaged or diseased foliage should be removed.
- At the end of the bloom season, cut off the bloom scapes to within a few inches of the ground unless you are hybridizing.

Info obtained at <https://daylilies.org/daylilies/faq/>
Please visit this site for more info.

Southwest Louisiana Daylily Society