

DAYLILIES

Hardy, colorful and carefree. Three characteristics that make the daylily a winner in the perennial garden. Daylilies also tolerate periods of drought, have few disease or insect problems and come in a wide variety of flower colors and sizes. They have a wide range of uses in mass plantings, on slopes and banks, in borders and in naturalized areas. Daylilies are a welcome addition to any garden.

Requirements

Full sun is what most daylilies prefer, but afternoon shade is tolerated and even helpful during long hot, dry spells.

Well-drained soil is best.

Planting

Prepare the planting area. Till or spade the area to a depth of 12" and add sphagnum peat moss or mushroom compost. Do not add fertilizer at this time if planting bare root lilies.

Place the plants 12-18" apart, if bare root, spread the root over a cone of soil with the crown of the plant at ground level. It is always better to plant a little high rather than too deep. Container grown material should be planted at the same height as it was grown in the container.

Cover the root zone with soil and tamp firmly.

Water in the plants immediately with a root stimulator solution.

Water well during the first month to insure plant establishment.

Care Maintenance

Water just before and during periods of profuse bloom. The plants will survive without extra water, but bloom will be enhanced with additional moisture.

Fertilize in early spring just as new growth starts with a fertilizer higher in phosphorous such as bonemeal or cottonseed meal.

Remove spent blooms. This is not mandatory, but the plants will be more attractive, and less energy will go to seed production and more to making a bigger stronger plant.

Divide the clumps as needed. This is best done in early spring or late summer. Lift the clump and pry apart with digging forks. Replant the smaller clumps as outlined above.

Varieties