Introduction

Enough evergreen selections of this sturdy perennial are available to provide a brilliant display of blossoms for much of the growing season (Fig. 1). The large, lily-shaped flowers, in various colors from pale yellow through orange, apricot, and deep red, are produced on long scapes projecting above the clumps of narrow, pale green foliage. Though often used as an edging or mixed into borders, Daylily is also well-suited to groundcover use where its arching, spreading habit will quickly fill in an area. The thick, fleshy, moisture-holding roots of Daylily grab onto the soil, making it an ideal candidate for erosion control on slopes and banks.

General Information

**Scientific name:** *Hemerocallis spp.*  
**Pronunciation:** hem-mur-ob-KAL-liss species  
**Common name(s):** Daylily  
**Family:** Liliaceae  
**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 3 through 10 (Fig. 2)  
**Planting month for zone 7:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 8:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 9:** year round  
**Planting month for zone 10:** year round  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** ground cover; border; naturalizing; mass planting; attracts butterflies  
**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

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**Description**

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Plant habit:** upright  
**Plant density:** moderate  
**Growth rate:** moderate  
**Texture:** fine

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Foliage

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire
Leaf shape: linear
Leaf venation: parallel
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 12 to 18 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: red; apricot; yellow; orange
Flower characteristic: spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

Fruit shape: round
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: brown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches
**Other**

**Roots:** not applicable  
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest  
**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

**Use and Management**

Plant on 12 to 18-inch centers. Growing well in full sun to shifting shade, daylilies prefer well-drained, loamy soils and should be well-watered during periods of bloom, although well-established plants will tolerate drought. Daylilies should be fertilized periodically throughout the year. Dig up clumps every few years, divide them and replant. This thinning procedure will help ensure continued flowering.

There are many, many hybrid cultivars available, with more appearing all the time. The cultivar ‘Stella d’Oro’ is quite popular and produces golden blooms throughout much of the year in the south. ‘Hyperion’ is another outstanding selection, with fragrant yellow blooms and very hardy growth.

Propagation is by division of clumps, by seed, or by the small plantlets which sometimes form on the flowerstalks. The seed germinates in 20 to 25 days outdoors or in a cold frame.

Though usually pest-free, aphids will occasionally attack the leaf bases of Daylily.

Flower thrips feed on flower buds and tips of the branches killing the flower cluster. The scapes have corky lesions.

Mites cause the leaves to turn yellow and have a dusty appearance. Heavy infestations form fine webbing.

Slugs leave a slime trail which looks like part of the leaf was varnished. Use slug baits according to label directions.

In the northern part of its range, Japanese beetle will eat the leaves and flowers. Control the larvae in the soil with milky spore disease.

**Pests and Diseases**

Leaf spot causes black spots on the leaves. Gather and destroy infected leaves.

Russet spot causes greenish yellow leaf spots which gradually enlarge and turn orange-brown. Plants growing in partial shade seem less affected. The disease is most common on *H. fulva rosea* and its varieties. The cause is not known.