



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Hemerocallis spp.¹

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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-oh-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

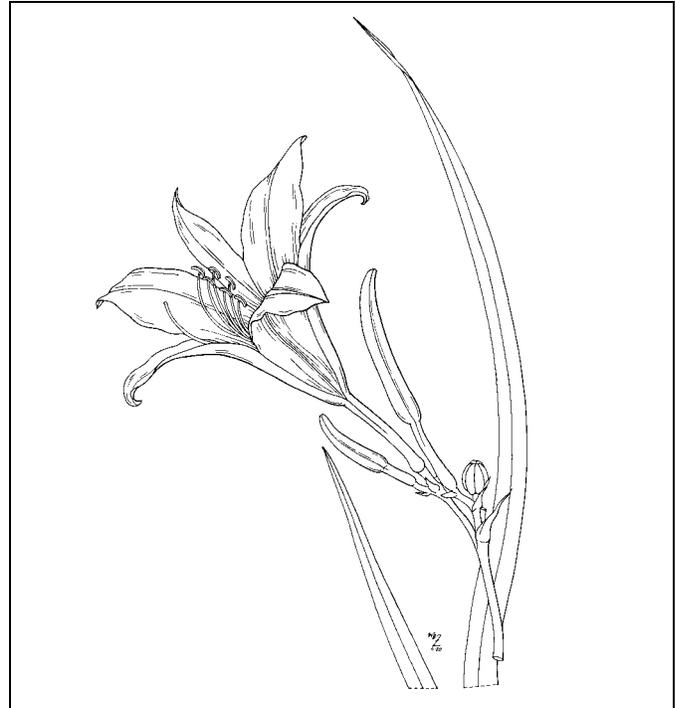


Figure 1. Daylily.

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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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

on *H. fulva rosea* and its varieties. The cause is not known.

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