

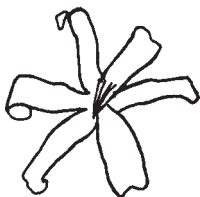
## Types of daylily flowers



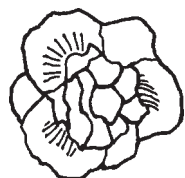
**Recurved** flowers have the ends of the segments tucked under.



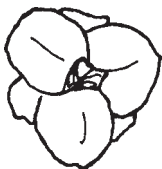
**Triangular** flowers have petals which are extended fully but the sepals curve under.



**Spider** flowers have long, narrow petals and sepals whose tips may curl under.



**Double** flowered varieties occur when the reproductive parts manifest as an extra set of petals.



**Flat** flowers occur when both petals and sepals show no tendency to curl.



**Pinched** flowers appear to have ends of the segments pinched together.



**Ruffled** flowers have wavy edges on their petals and sepals.

## Landscape uses

Daylilies are used in the landscape in many ways. They can be background plantings behind lower growing annuals and perennials or set in front of taller shrubbery or fences. Low growing varieties work wonderfully as edgers along walks or as foreground plantings. They can create an impact in the border with great color display appearing between the spring and late summer flowers. Especially attractive plants can be used as specimens in the garden. Gardeners also are using them very effectively in naturalized settings around streams and ponds or on slopes where their vigorous root systems can help hold the soil and reduce erosion. Choosing good clear colors is important when using them in large masses. For those gardeners with limited space, low growing and miniature varieties also can be used in containers on the patio or deck.

## Culinary uses

Daylily leaves and flowers are edible, but pick only from plants you know have not been sprayed. Most insecticides and fungicides do not have harvest restrictions on their label for edible flowers. Fortunately, daylilies don't have many pest problems and spraying is seldom needed. Young foliage (3 to 5 inches long) can be simmered or stir-fried. Flower buds and blossoms can be consumed at all stages of their growth. Tight buds can be used in salads, boiled, pickled, or stir-fried. Half-open, fully-open, and even day-old blossoms can be dipped in a light batter and deep-fried. Young flowers and buds can be strung and air dried. These are commonly referred to as "golden needles" in Chinese cooking. Before using, soak the dried flowers in warm water for a few minutes to soften.

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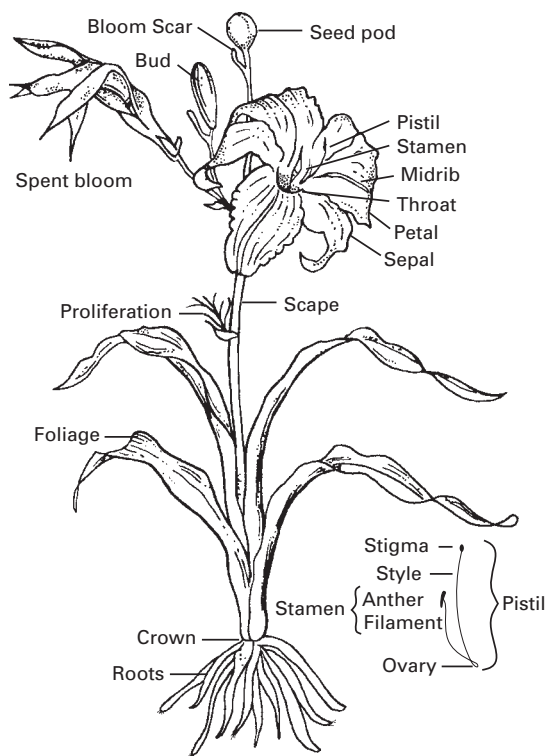
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# Daylilies



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University Extension

Daylilies are enjoying a well deserved surge in popularity. Very few perennial gardens exist today that do not have a few daylilies. Daylilies are easy to grow, relatively pest free, and many varieties multiply quickly. More than 32,000 varieties have been registered. Over 12,000 are available commercially. This makes selecting just the right one for the garden a challenging task.



## Characteristics

The Latin name for daylily, *Hemerocallis*, means “beautiful for a day” in Greek. The individual flowers last only one day but a succession of blooms are produced continually for several weeks during the bloom period. Some varieties are recurrent bloomers and will bloom more than once in a season. Other varieties are extended bloomers; their flowers may last two or three days instead of only one.

Daylilies normally have 22 chromosomes and are referred to as diploid (2n). Tetraploid (4n) varieties have double the number of chromosomes or 44. In most cases the chromosome number is important only for those interested in plant breeding. However, many tetraploid varieties have flowers that are larger and more intensely colored than diploid varieties. Most daylilies are deciduous (the foliage dies to the ground each winter) while others are semi-evergreen or evergreen. Deciduous varieties are commonly referred to as dormant varieties. The arching foliage consists of long linear leaves that grow 1 to 2 feet tall. Leaves are a rich green color.

The erect, leafless flower stalks (scapes) rise from the crown of the plant and extend above the foliage. The scapes of most varieties range in height from 18 inches to 5 feet tall; however, some can grow to a height of 8 feet. Five to 9 flowers are present on each flower stalk.

Early flowering varieties bloom in late spring and early summer. A large percentage of varieties bloom early to mid-summer. Others bloom late summer to frost. Of these late blooming varieties, many are reblooming after flowering earlier in the season.

Flowers range from less than 2 inches across for the miniature varieties to over 8 inches. Flowers are available in virtually every color of the rainbow. Some varieties have attractive eyes and throats. Common flower types are illustrated on the back of this pamphlet.

The root systems of daylily plants vary from an almost fibrous type to the common fleshy type. Some root systems consist of rhizomes and/or stolens that spread rapidly through the soil.

## Growth needs

Daylilies grow best in partial shade to full sun. Although they are known for their tolerance of poor sites, they will perform best in areas that are well-drained and possess abundant organic matter. If fertilized heavily, the foliage will be overgrown and flowering will be poor. One application of a complete fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, in early spring should be adequate. Natural rainfall is usually sufficient for daylilies. However, during prolonged periods of drought, plants benefit

from a thorough watering once a week to a depth of 8 to 10 inches.

Mulching is beneficial. During the summer, organic mulch materials—such as grass clippings or shredded leaves—conserve water, discourage weeds, and cool the soil. Winter mulch applied in late fall should be used on newly transplanted daylilies. Once they are established (experienced one winter) daylilies do not need winter protection. Some of the evergreen varieties are less winter hardy and require continued winter protection. Winter mulches should be light and airy. Coarse materials such as straw work well.

Just as other plants in the garden need regular clean up, daylilies are no exception. Remove dead foliage and debris in late fall or early spring. Check plants regularly during the growing season to remove damaged or yellowed leaves. Also, remove spent flowers regularly unless seeds are desired.

## Propagation

Daylilies can be propagated by seed or through division. Seeds require 6 weeks of stratification before sowing and then 3 to 7 weeks to germinate. Plants grown from seed will not be identical to their parent.

Dividing large clumps is an easy way to add quantity to the garden. Trading and sharing daylily divisions with relatives and friends is a great way to add variety to your collection. Clumps can be divided every 4 to 6 years by separating the plant into rooted segments, each with about 3 shoots. This division is often referred to as a fan. Because the root system is so vigorous, you may need to use an ax or spade to get the pieces apart. Daylilies can be divided in spring as new growth is emerging or during September. Avoid dividing blooming plants. Set the plants so the crown (the point where the roots and foliage meet) is about an inch below the soil surface. Space plants at least 2 feet apart.

