

BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS

How to Plant and Care for Daylilies

Planting

When planting your bare-root daylily, dig a hole deep and wide enough to accommodate the roots. Spread out the roots in the hole and place the plant so the crown (where the leaves meet the roots) is one inch below the surface of the soil. Holding the crown of the plant, push the soil into the hole, working the soil around the roots. Firm the soil around the crown.

Light/Watering

Daylilies will grow in full sun in Houston with sufficient moisture. Plants grow well in partial shade, which is preferred for varieties with pastel flowers. Daylilies are drought tolerant once established but perform best with consistent moisture.

Fertilizing/Soil

These perennials prefer a well-drained soil rich in organic matter. However many of the older hybrids will grow well even in sandy situations. Fertilize lightly once the plants are established but avoid using high-nitrogen fertilizer. A summer mulch is essential since it will help soils retain moisture and buffer soil temperatures.

Pests/Diseases

Daylilies rank high on the list of plants resistant to disease and pests. Thrips occasionally feed on buds or flowers, distorting the blooms and causing lesions on the flower spikes which may then break. Use insecticidal soap to discourage these tiny pests. Remove and destroy any infested buds or flowers. Spider mites can infest the foliage during hot, dry weather. Wash them off with a forceful water spray regularly. You could also use an appropriate insecticide. Yellowing leaves and brown leaf tips may appear after flowering. Regular grooming will keep plants looking fresh. If foliage becomes unsightly, cut it back to the ground, water well and, in time, new foliage will appear.

This and other plant care tip sheets are available at Buchanansplants.com.

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Re-flowering

Many re-blooming varieties are now available. These require regular removal of old flowers to perform at their best. On all types of daylilies, spent flowers should be snapped off daily and the entire flower scape should be cut off after all the buds have bloomed.

Dividing/Transplanting

Daylilies should be divided every 3-5 years, and repeat bloomers every 2 years since new growth supports the re-blooming. Two spading forks held back-to-back and pried apart make this chore easy. Transplant anytime the soil is workable. Water well after planting in the new location.

Care by the Season

Early Spring

Apply a light application of balanced or slow-release fertilizer low in nitrogen or side-dress with compost and organic amendments when new growth appears. Divide or transplant as necessary, watering well afterward.

Mid-Spring

Water well if unseasonably dry to provide evenly moist soil.

Late Spring

Remove spent flowers daily. Watch for flower thrips and treat accordingly.

Summer

Continue to deadhead as needed and cut away flower scapes after all buds have bloomed. Groom by removing yellow or dead leaves. Supplement natural rainfall to provide an inch of water per week and apply 2-3 inches of mulch around the plants, keeping it an inch or so away from the crowns. Monitor plants for spider mites and treat accordingly.

Fall

Remove old foliage by cutting back to the ground.

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