

Daylilies

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The daylily is becoming one of the most widely used plants in the landscape, because of their beauty and low maintenance. In east Texas fall is the ideal time to plant and divide daylilies, so they will be well established before the heat of next summer.

As the name implies, the daylily is a member of the “lily” family and each bloom lasts only one day. Some plants have blooms that last up to sixteen hours. These are called “extended bloomers”. There are early, late and repeat bloomers. Some even bloom most of the year in warm climates. Daylily plants and blooms range in size, from small to large and bloom color is almost any color you want. However, there is no black, blue or pure white.

Daylilies are one of the most adaptable of all plants, grown from coast to coast and in many foreign countries. They do need at least six ours of sun daily, preferably morning sun here in east Texas. Once established, daylilies need little care, but they will do better with a little T.L.C., such as fertilizer, water and weeding. Let’s face it; even we do better when we are clean and well fed. Daylilies have few enemies and spraying a systemic pesticide, following package directions, can easily control the few they have.

Daylilies do need to be divided every three to five years. If you do not divide daylilies, the result will be smaller and fewer blooms. By dividing, the plants will also multiply faster. Dig the whole clump, and then separate the divisions by pulling apart. Some gardeners separate the clump apart by inserting two spading forks back to back and then prying the forks apart. Before replanting, add some well rotted compost and high

phosphorus fertilizer to the soil. A division is called a “fan”, and it is good to set two fans together. Plant the fans the same depth as they were growing. By dividing and planting in the fall the daylilies will have time to develop new roots and put out a new fan or two.

So if you want a plant that is easy to grow, not much trouble, low maintenance, and with beautiful flowers, try the daylily. Start small and then add.

God bless, good luck and happy gardening!