



CARROLL'S COUNTRY GARDENS NURSERY

How To Grow Daylilies

After it is established a daylily will withstand much abuse, neglect, and lack of attention by a gardener since it is not terribly demanding. It will generally sustain itself through major droughts or prolonged periods of rain, snow, and frosts - conditions that destroy other, less hardy perennials. However, like any garden plant, daylilies will reward you many times over if you give them reasonable care and attention as outlined below.

When to Plant

Daylilies can be planted all year round but for best results try to avoid planting them in the middle of winter in very cold areas and during the hottest months of summer. If you order plants during these times pot them up and place them in a warm sunny spot in winter, or a shady spot in summer.

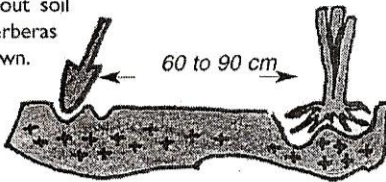
Where to Plant

The ideal location is in a sunny, well drained position where they will receive at least six hours of sunlight. Growers in the very southern areas (eg. Tasmania) are advised to give them as much sunlight as possible while growers in the hot dry areas of Australia could give them protection from the afternoon sun.

Soil Preparation

For best results, dig your soil well and add compost, old cow manure (non feed-lot) or sheep manure, blood and bone (but check that there is no added urea) a month or more before planting. Daylilies don't like being planted in old, sick, worn out soil where chrysanthemums, gerberas or old roses used to be grown.

Distance Apart

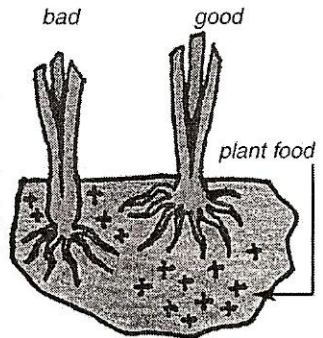


When Your Plants Arrive

Your plants are sent bare-rooted and will appear to be dry. DON'T WORRY - they will not die! Daylilies can withstand weeks out of the ground - and still survive. You may feel that there are too few roots and foliage - again, don't be concerned. They will quickly establish. There is no need to soak the plants because they now have no hair roots to take in moisture. These will develop within the next two weeks. If your garden bed is not ready, heel them in damp sand in the shade.

Depth To Plant

Form a mound and spread the roots out over it. Sprinkle fine soil over the roots making sure there are no air pockets. Just cover the roots and crown. Tamp the soil down firmly and lightly water. Do not over-water at this time - just once a week should be adequate (unless you have very porous soil).



Fertilising

Apply a well-balanced organic fertiliser in August and March. Chemical fertilisers (including slow release fertilisers) are not recommended. Strongly recommended are monthly applications of fish and seaweed foliar fertilisers. These can be sprayed on the foliage late in the afternoon or poured over the plant with a watering can. Fish and seaweed products improve the health of the soil and healthy soil means healthy plants. Be on the look out for rock dust products because they are excellent soil additives. If you are investing a lot of money in daylilies you are strongly advised to have a complete soil test done (not just a pH test). Gardeners in South East Qld could contact Graeme Sait, Nutri-tech Solutions at Eumundi Ph. 0754 491837. They will do your soil tests and advise on which organic fertilisers to use.

Watering

During times of rapid growth and during bloom season water twice weekly to maintain quality blooms. Mulch your plants heavily.

General Garden Care

To keep the plants looking attractive during and after bloom season, remove the old scapes (stems) when flowering has finished (cut them back to just below the top of the foliage) and remove the old outside leaves. Use them as a mulch around the plant.

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