



ALMANAC

Thursday, May 1, 2025



ORDER YOUR ALMANAC TODAY!

HOME > GARDENING > GROWING GUIDES

# How to Grow Daylilies: The Complete Daylily Flower Guide



Photo Credit: Pixabay

Botanical Name:

Hemerocallis spp.

Plant Type:

Flower

FREE GUIDE!



**Exposure:**

**Soil:** [Slightly Acidic](#) to [Neutral](#)

**Bloom Time:** [Spring](#), [Summer](#), [Fall](#)

**Flower Color:** [Orange](#), [Pink](#), [Purple](#), [Red](#), [White](#), [Yellow](#)

**Hardiness Zone:** [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#)

**Special Features:** [Attracts Butterflies](#)

# Planting, Growing, and Caring for Daylilies

By [Catherine Boeckmann](#)

**Last Updated:** April 15, 2024



---

Sign up for daily gardening advice and tips

Enter your email address

**SIGN UP**

ADVERTISEMENT

---

**The Almanac Garden Planner -  
Use It Free for 7 Days!**



Plan your 2025 garden with our  
award-winning Garden Planner.

**TRY NOW**

The **daylily** is an amazingly low-maintenance perennial. It's virtually disease-free, pest-free, and drought-resistant; it's also not picky about soil quality. Plus, the flower has a long bloom period! Here's how to plant and care for daylilies in your garden, as well as how to easily propagate them for more plants!

ADVERTISEMENT

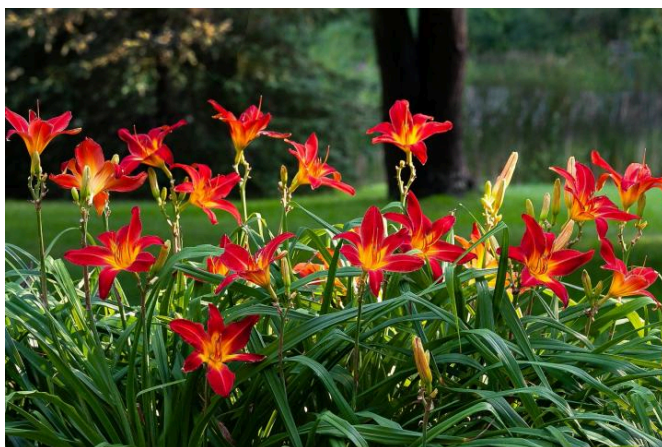
The daylily's botanical name, *Hemerocallis*, comes from the Greek *hemera* ("day") and *kallos* ("beauty"). The name is appropriate since each flower lasts only one day! However, each scape has 12 to 15 buds on it, and a mature plant can have 4 to 6 scapes, which is why the flower seems to bloom continuously.

Originally from Asia, these plants have adapted so well that many of us think of them as natives. Imagine the excitement of a 16th-century explorer cruising the Orient and finding these gorgeous plants! European gardeners welcomed daylilies into their gardens, and when early colonists sailed for the New World, daylilies made the crossing with them.

Despite their name, daylilies are not "true lilies" and grow from fleshy roots. True lilies grow from onion-like bulbs and are of the genus *Lilium*, as are Asiatic and Oriental lilies. In the case of daylilies, leaves grow from a crown, and the flowers form on leafless stems—called

## ADVERTISEMENT

There are thousands of beautiful daylilies to choose from. Combine early, midseason, late blooming varieties, and repeat bloomers to have daylilies in flower from late spring through the first frost of fall. If you see a height listed alongside a daylily variety, this refers to the length of the scape. Some can reach 6 feet tall!



- [How to Grow Lilies: The Complete Lily Flower Guide](#)
- [20 Easy-to-Grow Perennial Flowers for Beginners](#)
- [Common Plants You Probably Thought Were Natives](#)

## PLANTING

### When to Plant Daylilies

- Plant daylilies in the spring as soon as the soil can be worked. Alternatively, plant them in early fall, at least 6 weeks before the [first frost](#).

### Choosing and Preparing a Planting Site

- Although daylilies aren't fussy and will survive in less-than-ideal conditions, they will perform best if given full sun and a spot with well-drained, fertile soil.
- Don't plant near trees and shrubs that will compete for moisture and nutrients.
- To increase organic matter, add aged

## How to Plant Daylilies

- Dig a hole wide enough for the roots to be spread out.
- The crown of the plant (where roots and leaves meet) should be buried about 1 inch deep.
- Fill in the soil, lightly packing it down around the plant.
- Water until the soil is well saturated.

## GROWING

### How to Care for Daylilies

Daylilies require little to no care and can even survive with neglect, but if you want these flowers to thrive and perform at their best, here's how to give them a little TLC.

- Water newly planted daylilies once a week until established.
- Daylilies are fairly hardy and drought-tolerant, so they can survive without watering. However, they prefer about an inch of water per week.

dry spell or live in a drier climate, water them, and they will reward you with more blooms. Add mulch around the plant to keep it moist and to help minimize weeding.

- Daylilies do not require fertilization as long as the soil is reasonably fertile. However, you can encourage stronger bloom performance with a little general-purpose fertilizer (10-10-10) once a year in early spring as new daylily top grow emerges. Spread a handful at the base of each daylily clump and water if dry. If you wish, you could fertilize daylilies a second time after they are finished blooming to help your plants multiply faster in the future.
- Deadheading is not necessary but you can remove spent blooms to prevent seed production and to encourage more blooming. Just snip off their blossoms as you see them wilting. Most daylilies do not self-sow; you need to divide daylilies to create new plants (see how below).



away or in the fall or not at all. If you do not cut it back, it will simply turn brown and remain standing.

- However, in early spring, remove the dead foliage from the previous year's growth before new growth resumes in the spring.
- Add aged manure or compost to the soil around the plants in the spring.

## **Dividing and Transplanting Daylilies**

Daylilies can be aggressive spreaders and will likely require dividing at some point (usually every 3 to 5 years). In addition to controlling their spread, dividing will also reinvigorate plants, resulting in better and more frequent blooms.

To propagate them, divide the daylily clumps in early spring (February through April) or in the late summer to fall after flowering (late July through mid-September) prior to the autumnal equinox. The plants need at least six weeks to get re-established before winter.

## ADVERTISEMENT

1. Though dividing can be done any time the soil is workable, it is best done right after the daylily has finished blooming. Note: The plants need at least 6 weeks to get re-established before winter.
2. Dig up the entire root clump.
3. Remove as much soil from the roots as possible. Soaking the roots in a bucket of water helps to get rid of excess soil.
4. Locate the crown of the plant.  
Starting from the outer edge, break it into smaller clumps (usually 3 to 4 per plant). Each clump should have healthy roots and at least a

5. Cut the leaves back to approximately one-third of their original length (5 to 6 inches, generally).
6. Replant and water thoroughly.



## Types

There are thousands of beautiful daylilies to choose from! Combine early, midseason, late blossoming varieties, and repeat bloomers to have daylilies in flower from late spring into fall.

Daylily flowers may be fragrant and come in many colors, shades, and color combinations. Some flowers are full and round, others have wide petals with ruffled edges. Daylilies called “spiders” are spider-like in shape, while “doubles” have double the number of petals and sepals.

Some of our favorite cultivars include:

- **‘Stella de Oro’** has numerous yellow flowers per scape and blooms all summer.
- **‘Little Grapette’** has small purple flowers and blooms in early summer. This daylily is only 12 inches tall.
- **‘So Sweet’** has yellow flowers. Its leaves remain green over winter.
- **‘Ruby Spider’** has large, up to 9-inches wide, scarlet-red flowers with golden throats.
- **‘Catherine Woodbury’** blooms in mid-to late-summer with fragrant lavender-pink flowers.
- **‘Indian Giver’** has large rich-purple flowers and blooms early to late summer. It’s semi-evergreen.
- **‘Siloam Double Classic’** has fragrant, salmon-pink, double blossoms in early to mid-summer. It’s ideal for containers.

**Reblooming daylilies** have the ability to rebloom during the growing season:

**Evergreen daylilies** have leaves that remain green over winter:

- ‘Wind Frills’, ‘So Sweet’, ‘Joan Senior’

Looking for a specific color? No problem! Here are a few options:

- **Pink:** ‘Lullaby Baby’, ‘Chicago Candy Cane’, ‘Halls Pink’
- **Lavender/Purple:** ‘Mountain Violet’, ‘Velvet Shadows’, ‘Summer Wine’
- **Red:** ‘Hearts Afire’, ‘Oriental Ruby’, ‘Red Mittens’
- **Orange:** ‘Rocket City’, ‘Carrot Top’, ‘By Myself’
- **Yellow:** ‘Lemon Lollypop’, ‘Mini Stella’, ‘Paradise Prince’
- **White:** ‘Crispin’, ‘Ice Carnival’, ‘May May’, ‘So Lovely’

## HARVESTING

### Using Daylilies as Cut Flowers

Daylilies can make nice cut flowers, espe-

tinue to develop and open for up to a week indoors.

- The trick is to cut daylilies with buds that are just about to open, with a bit of the flower color showing. The higher up buds will open as the bottom ones fade.
- As soon as you get the flowers inside, trim the stem ends an inch or so, making a diagonal cut with a sharp knife.
- Change the water every few days.
- Remove the faded flowers daily and new buds will open.

## GARDENING PRODUCTS

### PESTS/DISEASES

Aphids and thrips occasionally feed on the flower buds. Use insecticidal soap or strong sprays of water to keep them at bay.

### WIT AND WISDOM

Asia. Explorers brought them to Europe and early colonists subsequently brought them to North America.

- The common orange-red daylily (*H. fulva*) that forms brilliant borders along country roads is also called roadside lily, outhouse lily, ditch lily, or tawny daylily.
- According to weather lore, if a daylily blossom opens later or closes earlier than its usual time (opens at 7:00 a.m., closes at 7:00 p.m.), watch for rain.
- All parts of the daylily are edible. The tender foliage can be eaten as a spring green. The buds and flowers can be eaten raw or in soups. The swollen portions of the root can be boiled and eaten. Read more about this below.

## COOKING NOTES

Daylilies are edible and have a long history in the kitchen. The tender foliage was eaten as a spring green, the buds and flowers were eaten raw and added to

ing agent when cooked in stews, soups,  
or sauces.

- Try sautéing daylily buds in some butter and garlic. They taste like a cross between green peas and asparagus.
- Dip daylily buds in a light batter and deep-fry them. Sprinkle with salt, and you have a special summer treat!

**FLOWERS**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Catherine Boeckmann



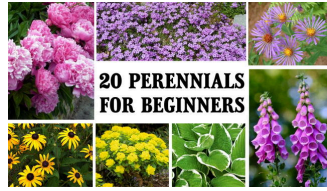
Catherine Boeckmann loves nature, stargazing, and gardening so it's not surprising that she and The Old Farmer's Almanac found each other. She leads digital content for the Almanac website, and is also a certified master gardener in the state of Indiana. [Read More from Catherine Boeckmann](#)

- - - - -





**How to Grow  
Lilies: The  
Complete Lily  
Flower Guide**



**20 Easy-to-  
Grow  
Perennial  
Flowers for  
Beginners**



**Common  
Plants You  
Probably  
Thought Were  
Natives**



**How to Grow  
Peonies: The  
Complete  
Peony Flower  
Guide**



**Growing the  
Siberian Iris**



**How to Grow  
Amaryllis: The  
Complete  
Amaryllis  
Flower Guide**



**GROW YOUR BEST GARDEN YET**

Join The Old Farmer's Almanac  
Gardening Club Today!

**LEARN MORE**

ADVERTISEMENT

## COMMENTS

ADD A COMMENT

**Tommy Neale (not verified)** 1 month 1 week ago

How far apart should you plant daily lilies in a smaller garden area to achieve coverage?

ADVERTISEMENT

REPLY

**The Editors** 1 month 1 week ago

Hi, Tommy. It depends on what size

space your plants 12 to 18 inches apart. If you are growing the large type, they need to be about 2 feet apart.

**REPLY**

---

**Colleen (not verified)** 7 months 1 week ago

What are the bulbous pods on the ends of my daylily scapes...???

What do i do with them..???

**REPLY**

**The Editors** 7 months 1 week ago

Those are called aerial bulbs. They contain the genetic material needed to start a new flower. In nature, they drop to the ground to eventually form flowering bulbs. You can simply pull them off, you make sure there is more energy to form flowers next year. Or, you can harvest and plant in a furrow (similar to peas) in a pro-

REPLY

---

**Cindy (not verified)** 9 months 4 weeks ago

I have what looks like an entire new plant growing on the side (stem) of my daylily scapes. Can I plant this and get a new plant?

REPLY

**Kayethe Infinger (not verified)** 9

months 3 weeks ago

Yes, you can. I've done this many times.

REPLY

---

**Lydia G Smith (not verified)** 10 months ago

Will day lilies survive in soil that get a lot of winter sidewalk salt?

REPLY

Yes, daylilies are salt-tolerant. You'll see they are popular perennials planted near roads and sidewalks.

**REPLY**

---

**Peggy Reed (not verified)** 10 months 2 weeks ago

Are the orange day lilies good for bees? Are they good pollinators?

**REPLY**

**The Editors** 10 months 1 week ago

Hi, Peggy. Bees and many other pollinators love orange daylilies. They are an excellent choice to welcome nature's beneficial insects (little heroes!) to your garden.

**REPLY**

**MORE COMMENTS**

# THE OLD FARMER'S STORE

## ADVERTISEMENT

### Our Brands

[The Old Farmer's](#)

[Almanac for Kids](#)

[Yankee Magazine](#)

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

[NH Business Review](#)

[New Hampshire](#)

[Magazine](#)

[Yankee Custom](#)

[Marketing](#)

### Resources

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Free Daily Newsletter](#)

[Webcam](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)

[Media Relations](#)

[Sell the Almanac](#)

[Where to Buy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie List](#)

[Do Not Sell or Share](#)

[My Personal](#)

[Information](#)

### Connect with Us



©2025 [Yankee Publishing Inc.](#), An Employee-Owned Company

1121 Main Street | P.O. Box 520 | Dublin, NH 03444