

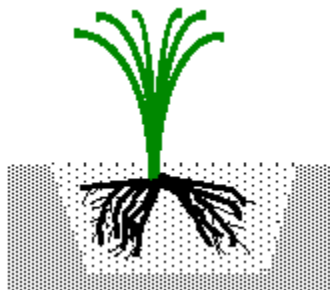
Planting Daylilies in Dallas and North Texas

In Dallas and surrounding areas of North Texas, daylilies are among the easiest of perennials to grow. Daylilies can grow and reproduce for a lifetime if given an occasional transplanting, reasonable care, and fertilizing. They will thrive well in full sun to partial shade. They will grow and bloom in any type of soil, but will respond best over the years if given proper culture.

Plants should have the roots soaked in water or a weak solution of fertilizer (or root stimulator) for a few hours or overnight. Also, plants can be washed in a weak solution of Clorox water with a small amount of liquid soap added for only a short time (about five minutes), then sprayed well with a hose to remove any of the soap and Clorox solution that may be left on the plant. Lay the treated plant aside to dry for a short time in the shade and then plant.

The soil should be prepared with deep cultivation, adding peat moss, compost, or leaf mold. Daylilies should be planted in a raised bed in a moderately drained location. If the roots are long, trim them back a little to promote new growth when planting a new daylily, or replanting.

After the soil is prepared, a hole should be dug that is slightly larger than the root mass. Mound the soil in the center of the hole and place the plant on the mound. Fill the hole so that the crown is flush with the surrounding soil surface and press firmly. The plant should then be thoroughly watered. **DO NOT WATER AFTER THIS FOR SEVEN DAYS**, since new feeder roots need to form within that time to absorb the water around them. If much peat moss is used, watering should be reduced somewhat after seven days.



Note: For best planting results, place dirt mix around the plant up to the crown area. Then add washed sand around the top and under the crown for better drainage in our local soil conditions.

For best results, the daylily should receive an inch of water a week thereafter. Also, the moisture tolerance of the daylily makes it an excellent problem solver for hard-to-landscape area. Since the plant forms “potatoes” at the end of the roots that hold water, the plant can drink from this supply of moisture even if the plant receives less surface water. If necessary, apply mulch to the ground surface to retain soil moisture during hot temperatures.

Important: Planting daylilies in Dallas and surrounding areas is ideal in early spring and fall when temperatures are between 70 and 80 degrees. If temperatures are extremely hot, you can plant your daylilies in pots and keep them in partial shade. Daylilies should be planted in partial shade their first summer. They may be transplanted in the fall to full sun. Please note that darker flower colors fade in full sun.

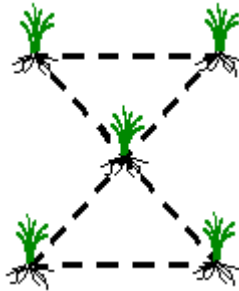
Sources of shade for your daylily garden are as follows:

- Install 50% shade from shade cloth.
- Plant on the east side of the house.
- Plant where there is morning sun and afternoon shade.
- Plant in partial shade all day.
- Plant temporary shade plants in your daylily bed by first week in June; these include castor bean (**Caution:** If eaten, castor beans are poisonous.), candle tree, okra, and sunflower (Note: Black oil seed make large flowers; stripped seed make larger leaves.).

Keep in mind that soil and growing conditions vary in each garden. For best growth of the plant and abundant blossoms for the following year, fertilizer should be applied a week or so after the blooming season has peaked. Use a fertilizer such as 14-14-14 or other well-balanced fertilizer. A good time-released fertilizer is excellent.

Underneath each plant crown, as the plant enlarges and multiplies, a round knob is grown. After a time, the knob, or lower portion of the plant below the crown may begin to deteriorate related to age and expansion of the plant growth. **CUT THE KNOB BACK** to about $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the crown with a sharp clean knife, and trim the roots attached around this area or older part of the plant leaving the new roots to grow. Any roots that are not in the way should be left if they are active roots. Apply Rootone to the cut areas before planting to seal and promote root growth.

Spacing should be as shown in the diagram with grouping about 18 to 24 inches apart.



Although daylilies are practically disease free and pest free, thrips, aphids, and spider mites may appear. Mites draw the chlorophyll from the leaves that then lose their color, turn tan, then brown, and soon die. Heavily infested plants may be covered with fine webbing. Aphid damage appears in general forms, such as irregular color in new growth, white flecks on the foliage, or clear sticky substance on the leaf surface. Thrips feed on the bloom and tender branches of the daylily. Damage by thrips is recognized by a rough lesion on the stems or bent and twisted stems with malformed buds. It is important to remove any infested parts of the plant from the garden area and dispose of them. **DO NOT USE THIS IN COMPOST.** If the infestation persists, chemicals can be used. There are several good ones on the market. (**Note:** Do not use Kelthane on daylilies.)

If, after planting, and any time between transplanting time, your plant sinks into the dirt or is covered above the crown, you will need to keep a close eye and keep the plant at the proper ground level. You will spot this easily if you keep a close watch on your plants. If the crown is buried too deeply, the plant will sometimes develop crown rot.