

Daylily plant sale scheduled for Saturday

BY MARTY FIGLEY
SPECIAL WRITER

The Southern Michigan Hemerocallis Society is having its second annual Daylily Plant Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook Road, at Woodward in Bloomfield Hills.

At the sale, 2,500 plants will be available at reasonable prices.

Many of the 138 members of this society will contribute seedlings, said Joan Kepf of Commerce. Seedlings are flowers that haven't been registered or named, although many of them are "brehtaking," she said. Pinks, purples, "eyes," miniatures, small flowers and rebloomers will be offered. There will be plants that bloom early, in mid-season and late in the season, so gardeners can plan for continuous bloom in their gardens.

Some of the members who are hybridizers will also contribute named varieties. They include Kepf, Merritt Wolson of Waterford, Jan Selfert of Franklin, Pat Salk of Metamora and Larry Mackle of Bloomfield Hills. If you have

been looking for a specific daylily, here is the place to find it. Some of the named varieties being offered are "Windfrills" and "Jack's High-rise," both pink spiders; "Exotic Echo," a double; "Obsession," a red; "Nordic Light," a dark purple; and "Into the Mystic," a two-tone unusual shade of pink.

Members of the Southern Michigan Hemerocallis Society will be on hand to answer any questions visitors might have and help choose the perfect plants for their garden location. Applications for membership will be available on the day of the sale. T-shirts and tote bags featuring the daylily motif will be available for purchase, as will cold beverages.

Members of the society live in all areas of southeastern Michigan.

If you are interested in this versatile flower, this is a good opportunity to learn about it and get started on a rewarding garden hobby.

Daylilies are basically disease-free and require very little care. The spear-like foliage is nearly always green and

the color and varieties available make them suitable for many landscaping situations. They are a neat plant that can enhance a pool, grow on banks to help stem an erosion problem, and blend well with many other flowers. A bed devoted to one variety and color of daylilies is a spectacular sight.

When you buy your daylily plants at this show, plant them as soon as possible, but if you have other chores to do, the seedlings can be holed into some moist sand in a shady area. A few days later you may see tiny root fibers that have formed.

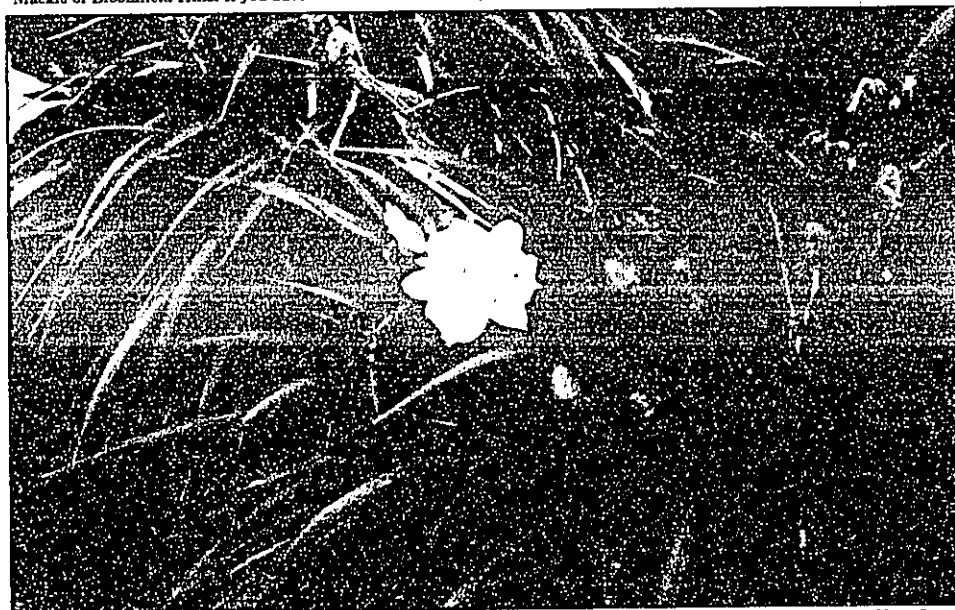
If you are planting your treasures in a brand-new bed, dig the soil to a depth of about 12 inches and improve it with well-rotted manure and peat. If your bed has been worked before, it will be fine to simply plant in it. Build a small mound up in the hole and set the tuber on this, letting the roots hang down — spread them out evenly. You can fill the hole with the existing soil or add compost, peat, sand and well-rotted manure to enrich the area. Place the plant the same depth it was originally growing.

Water well to settle the plant and to eliminate air pockets.

Daylilies flourish in any type of soil, but if drainage is a problem, they might do better in a raised bed. The object is to have a good friable soil with good drainage. One other consideration is sun. Daylilies perform well in many sites, but in sunnier spots there will be more flowers. Be ready to water the plants in the spring and during the summer when they are flowering.

New plants shouldn't be fertilized in the spring, so mulch with compost until they become established. Older and established clumps of daylilies will benefit from an application of a 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 fertilizer in the early spring. If you choose to mulch your plants in the fall, an application of a 4-8-12 fertilizer applied before the mulch will assure that nitrogen will be available when the plant needs it.

One of the things that make daylilies attractive to many growers is the fact that they are easily propagated and results can be seen in three years, not long in relation to other flowers.



MARTY FIGLEY

Delightful daylily: The daylily is a versatile flower. See for yourself this weekend at the Southern Michigan Hemerocallis Society's daylily plant sale in Bloomfield Hills.

Kids' activity 'book' offered on Internet

Lenore Paxton, partner of Troy-based children's book publisher Worldkids Press, has announced that "Sing, Color'n Say" is now available for browsing on the World Wide Web.

Computer users hooked into the Internet can find "Sing, Color'n Say" at <http://www.webpub.com/worldkids/>.

"Sing, Color'n Say" is a series of children's activity packs containing a coloring book with a story, and a sing-along cassette.

Each activity pack — "Going to Grandma's," "Happy B-I-R-T-H Day," "Christmas Time of Year," "His Name Was David" and "Noah and the Ark" — teaches children about cultures and customs from around the world while they color and sing to the music. At the end of each tape, youngsters learn an entertaining phrase, such as "I love you, Grandma," in 10 different languages.

This is a 18g ship for 104" Paxton

said. "We have opportunity to introduce our stories to children all over the world, allowing them to embrace and understand a variety of cultures. Our books and tapes are about being part of the 'global experience,' and the World Wide Web is the epitome of that."

By accessing the Worldkids Press page, viewers can hear a sample of songs from each title, view a page of the coloring book and read a brief description

tion of the activity pack. Interested browsers can use their Visa or MasterCard to have a "Sing, Color'n Say" shipped to them.

For the non-experienced net surfer, "Sing, Color'n Say" is available locally at all major bookstore chains (B. Dalton, Barnes and Noble, Borders, Waldenbooks and Meller) and nationally at Waldenbooks For Kids and Waldenbook Computers.