

Suburban Gardener:

Daylilies Are Found In Many Sizes, Colors

By BETTY FRANKEL Special Writer

From these wild types plant breeders have developed many beautiful hybrids. There are hundreds of named varieties—some more beautiful than the rest, and enthusiasts are constantly developing newer and lovelier forms.

Many daylily enthusiasts in the area are members of the American Hemerocallis Society. Each year this group sponsors shows and gives awards to the finest new introductions and is constantly revising their list of the "best" varieties.

There are about a half dozen wild species of daylilies, most native to Japan or other far eastern countries. Among these are the old-fashioned lemon lily, Hemerocallis flava, which has "gone wild" and naturalized itself along roadsides throughout a large part of the

United States. . . . able the price becomes very reasonable and roots or small clumps are often available for

One of the finest collections of daylilies in the area is at Hughes Gardens on Lakeshore Road in Southfield. There are hundreds of varieties for sale and the display field is ablaze with colorful blooms. . . . FRANCIS HUGHES says that he adds new varieties every year, and that his collection includes all the varieties on the list of the American Hemerocallis Society.

Francis Hughes says that he adds new varieties every year, and that his collection includes all the varieties on the list of the American Hemerocallis Society. He still grows the old fashioned kinds, too. . . . In addition to the tawny pink form of it, Hemerocallis flava roses, that was found growing wild in Japan. He has a clump of Russels Painted Lady, a coppery orange with slightly ruffled petals.

Hughes points out that the newer forms are sturdier with larger flowers than the earlier types. Most modern daylilies have flowers that are spread wide open and many have ruffled edges.

The color range is being extended and in addition to peach and pinks there are lavender tones. The reds are redder, the oranges more vibrant and there are also a few pale creamy tones. . . . There are two systems of water flow in a plant. One flows upward from the roots, carrying minerals to the branches and leaves.

DAYLILIES are easy to grow. They will grow in either sun or partial shade and will tolerate either moist or dry soil conditions. They can be used as a border along a drive, or clumps can be used effectively in front of a foundation.

Adjust Your Mower To Suit Your Grass. The beauty of a lawn depends not so much upon how closely the grass is mowed as upon how evenly it is cut. . . . Highland are best mowed relatively low, between half and one inch tall, leaves grow towards the tips of the stems, the stems becoming bare stubble when the ends are clipped off.

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Growing Plants Need Water Even During Moist Summer

Watering becomes a major project in the average garden during the months of July and August.

While there have been cool, damp summers when very little watering was needed, this is not the usual case.

Even if the summer may seem to be more moist than usual, there will be hot, dry spells when watering will be required.

To adequately water a garden you should know how functioning plants perform in growing plants. For convenience we can call them the three P's—pigidity, translocation and transpiration.

TURGIDITY means swollen or distended by an external force. The force in plants is water. It is water pressure that keeps a plant firm. Cut off water from a plant and it soon wilts as the water in it evaporates.

The whole shape of the leaf and its firmness is due to water pressure. Some plants do develop wood in the stems and parts of the leaves as they get older, but the vast majority of plants owe their shape to water.

TRANSLOCATION means that the water is necessary to move food from the plant leaf where it is made to the stem and the roots where it is used.

Water is also necessary to move minerals which are taken in by the root to the stems and leaves where they are needed.

There are two systems of water flow in a plant. One flows upward from the roots, carrying minerals to the branches and leaves.

The other flows downward, carrying sugar to feed the stem and roots.

There are two sets of tubes or vessels in a plant that carry these two streams, which are largely water but carry dissolved materials needed by the plant.

While the flow of food is normally downward, away from the leaves, there is a time in early spring when food materials move upward to the buds, just as the leaves start to grow.

With these fine lawngresses now leaves arise from near the ground rather than on above-ground stems.

At conventional bluegrass-fescue heights, mowing seldom need be more frequent than once per week, and in autumn (when these species grow low rather than tall) may be not at all after early October.

NOW BECOMING available are elite bluegrasses and fine fescues (varieties include Cascade Chewings, Hightlight, Milbree, and Pennlawn) respond well to higher mowing— from as low as an inch under favorable circumstances to as tall as 4-1/2 inches where summer is longer.

CONVENTIONAL bluegrass-fescue heights, mowing seldom need be more frequent than once per week, and in autumn (when these species grow low rather than tall) may be not at all after early October.

TRANSPIRATION is the passage of water vapor from a plant surface. Just what good this evaporation from the plant does is something that has never been solved.

One idea is that it keeps the plant cool and prevents injury from the sun in the same way that perspiration keeps people cool.

Another theory is that the amount of minerals in the water from the roots is so small that the leaves have to use a lot of extra water to get the minerals they need and the extra water is evaporated into the air.

In any case it does go on and is one reason plants need water. Certainly transpiration is greatest during hot, dry weather and lowest during cloudy, rainy weather.

Nearly all plants in a garden get their water from the roots. A small amount may get in through the leaves or stems, but only if the stem or leaf is quite soft.

In the case of lawns the roots may be only a few inches in the soil. With roses the roots are likely to be about a foot down, and even deeper.

to help these plants in dry weather. . . . MISTING is a method employed when a plant is wilting or very dry. This is spraying the top with a fine spray or mist. While only a very little mist actually gets into the plant, it does increase the humidity around the plant so there is less water needed for transpiration.

This helps until the roots can get enough water in the soil to send up plenty for the leaves. Shading to keep sun and wind off helps in much the same way.

GENERALLY, soaking a wide area all around the plant is

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