

Recommending lilies, daylilies

Aren't the lilies and daylilies splendid this year? Shades of red, pink, orange, yellow, ivory, white and hi-colors abound in great profusion and beauty any location. Lilies (Liliaceae) and daylilies (Hemerocallis) are generally grown and cared for in the same manner.

Although they look regal, lilies are easy to grow and there are varieties to suit any climate. These low-maintenance perennials also are available in heights from 12 inches to 6 feet tall. Blooming times vary so you can plan for continuous bloom in the garden.

Good drainage is the most important consideration for lilies. If drainage is poor, raised beds will suit, or if the soil is heavy clay, sand and peat moss can be mixed in. Lilies can also be container-grown with good results. One advantage of this is they can be moved to a shady spot if the sun is really hot.

Lilies grow from bulbs and are best planted in the fall. Now is the time to consider which varieties you want and where they will be planted.

It is well to prepare the beds before purchasing (or ordering). Lily bulbs must be handled differently than tulips, daffodils and the like. They have no protective tunic and must be stored in packing medium and a plastic bag. They must not be allowed to dry out.

If you acquire the bulbs before the planting site is ready, store them in the vegetable crisper of the refrigerator in their packing material until ready to plant. You might want to save two or three for forcing later.

The bulbs should be planted 5-6 inches apart, depending upon their size. They should be planted so there is three to four inches of soil over the top of each bulb. The general rule is to have the soil depth at least twice the vertical thickness of the bulb.

An exception is the madonna lily, which needs only 1 inch of soil on top. For fall plants insert stakes in the ground at time of planting. Water adequately until flowering, then let the bulbs mature. Do not plant when the soil is wet. Don't mix fertilizer in the soil at planting time.



down to earth
Marty Figley

This should be applied once in early spring when sprouts appear. Read package directions carefully.

"Head in the sun and feet in the shade" an often quoted phrase regarding lilies means the roots should be kept cool. Mulches of leaf mold or semi-coarse peat moss are ideal. Daylilies can stand more sun than true lilies, therefore they are not quite as particular about location.

Where to plant these lovely flowers may pose a problem. They can be most striking in a bed composed of many varieties, or they can be planted in shrub borders in groups of five or six.

If they are planted in front of the shrubs, keep them far enough away to avoid root competition. The foliage and stems of the plants need to remain until they die back naturally to supply needed food for the following year's growth. The dying foliage of lilies can be concealed by planting shallow rooted annuals.

The garden at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook, at Woodward, is open to the public. Depending on the season, visitors will see outstanding displays of iris, peonies and currently, daylilies. There are also outstanding examples of specimen trees.

Art awardees named

Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan (CCAM) will honor an artist, three arts organizations and two supporters of the arts at its fourth Michigan arts awards dinner Monday, Nov. 14.

Those to be honored at the 1988 Governor's Arts Awards ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dearborn, are: David Barr, sculptor-painter; Cranbrook Academy of Art and its museum; Hilberry Theatre; and St. Cecilia Music Society of Grand Rapids.

Dr. Lawrence D. Crawford of Saginaw will receive the 1988 Governor's Civic Leader Award for excellence in supporting the arts. John Larkin, president of the Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad in Wells, will receive the 1988 Governor's Business Honor Roll Award.

For information on the dinner and ceremony, call Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 981-1776, 350 Madison, Detroit.



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