

Daylily from page 4D

varieties were plain and yellow, late to open in the morning and they closed in the early afternoon. Now the keeping qualities are much improved and they come in all colors except blue and pure white."

Goldner has hybridized daylilies that will drop the spent bloom automatically and Martin Kamenski of Ulca, another hybridizer and society member, looks for rebloom and length of bloom. Dean Corey of Farmington Hills also is a breeder.

Daylilies are low maintenance plants. They can be divided any time during the season, even while they are in bloom; they can go several years before division and then only when the plants become crowded and the crown slightly elevated. Any garden soil is suitable, flower stalks may be removed for esthetic reasons, and older leaves may be removed when they die and turn brown in late summer. The dead leaves will act as a mulch during the winter and then should be removed in the spring. Daylilies are virtually pest- and disease-free.

In our weather conditions the small or miniature species daylilies such as "Stella d'Oro," "Bitay" and "Peter Pan" bloom in the mid to latter part of June, while the ones with larger blooms (90 percent of the varieties) peak the middle of July. Goldner predicts that one day there will be two flower shows

'Because of hybridizing daylilies can be universally grown in all regions of this country. Thirty years ago the varieties were plain and yellow, late to open in the morning and they closed in the early afternoon.'

*At Goldner
Bloomfield Hills*

during a season, for Midwest conditions, one in mid-July and the other in early September.

"My target all these years has been for landscape varieties," said Goldner, former owner of Goldner-Walsh Nursery in Pontiac.

A total 2,500 daylilies will be in bloom during the middle of July and can be seen at Richmond Forest golf course, 32 Mile Road in Mount Clemens. Drive about one mile west of Richmond. These daylilies have been hybridized by Goldner and will be available to the wholesale nursery trade through Wiegand's Nursery Inc. in Macomb. They will be available to the general public in 1996.



MARTY PICLEY

Daylily devotees: Daylilies are important to these members of the Hemerocallis Society, Al Goldner (left) and Hal Rice.

Cool colors beat the heat

BY LEE REICHI
AP NEWS FEATURES

The flower garden needs some cooling colors to thwart, at least psychologically, summer's heat.

The reds and yellows of spring and early summer were welcome after a winter of gray and brown, but it's time to calm things down.

Blue is cool, and the purer it is, the cooler it is. Not many flowers, though, have a color as pure blue as a bluebird or the sky on a crisp, cloudless morning.

Many bluish flowers — among them delphinium, cornflower, campanula and veronica — come close, but the red lurking in these blues heats them up a bit.

The ultimate in pure blue flowers is the blue poppy (*Mecopopsis*). But this plant is not an easy one to grow.

The seed is very slow to germinate, and once up, the plants require cool, moist summers and mild winters — not the kind of weather found over most of the country. If you are up to the challenge, the 6-foot-high plants, capped with sky-blue, 3-inch flowers, would be well worth the effort.

Some of the purest blues also are found on gentians, specifically *Gentiana angustifolia*, *G. verna*, *G. septemfida* and *G. oregana*. Like blue poppies, gentians generally are difficult to grow.

Besides the extra-special soil conditions demanded by some species (some like alkaline soil, others like acidic soil), virtually all recent blistery summer heat and require a soil with perfect drainage. Seeds are small and slow to germinate, and seedlings do not bloom until their third year.

Blue flowers, especially pure blue flowers, pale in bright sunlight, but radiate a cool glow in slight shade or morning light.

But just imagine the feeling of accomplishment once you get one of these to flower after three years of nurturing it.

So much for the difficult blues. There is at least one blue flower that is not only fairly pure in color but also easy to grow morning glory, of course. Morning glory comes in colors other than blue, but the one to grow for blue is the appropriately named "Heavenly Blue."

One of the best places to plant morning glory is against an east wall. There, the flowers unfurl as soon as they are touched by the first rays of morning sun. But as the sun rises in the sky, the wall shields the blooms enough to keep them lingering on into the day rather than closing up in the heat and brightness of midday sun.

Actually, a bit of shade from midday sun is good, aesthetically, for any blue flower. Blue flowers, especially pure blue flowers, pale in bright sunlight, but radiate a cool glow in slight shade or morning and evening light.

Don't fill the whole flower garden with blue flowers, though.

You still need some bright reds and yellows to liven the scene. And reserve some room for the tawny red and yellow flowers of autumn, for these warm colors will be welcome when winter is just around the corner.

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