

Plant Wise

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Coordinator and Mills County Horticulture Program Assistant

Mills County Extension
61321 315th St; P.O. Box 430
Malvern, IA 51551
712-624-8616

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mills>

Prepared by: Shirley D Miller, Mills County Master Gardener

July 2022

The Daylily

With July your flower gardens begin to burst with color. Daylilies will be coming into full swing by Mid-July. Did you know that there are over 80,000 varieties of daylilies? Yet many of us have, and can name some of the most popular ones.

Here is the technical description of daylily.

A daylily or day lily is a flowering plant in the genus *Hemerocallis*, a member of the family Asphodelaceae, subfamily Hemerocallidoideae. Despite the common name, it is not in fact a lily. Gardening enthusiasts and horticulturists have long bred daylily species for their attractive flowers.



Now, what you need to know.

Daylilies may be the most carefree of all flowering perennials. The plants grow quickly and are long lived. They thrive in almost any type of soil, will grow in sun or part shade, and are rarely troubled by insect pests or disease. Daylilies are known for their toughness, but their colorful and abundant flowers are also dazzling. Blooming starts in midsummer and continues into early fall, with new blossoms opening each day.

So, let's dig into the daylily.

What we commonly call the ditch lily, is in fact one of the predecessors to the daylily's we cherish now. But unlike the newer varieties, the ditch lily can be invasive and very hard to get rid of. It multiplies and spreads very fast if left unchecked. As you drive

through the countryside, you can see where old farmsteads use to be. First clue is the ditch lilies.



The tall orange lilies are native to Asia. Here we called them; Fourth of July lily, tawny lily, corn lily, tiger lily and ditch lily.

Through years of selective breeding, we now have thousands of beautiful daylilies to choose from. Along with a vast variety of colors and combination of colors, we have many different shapes of blooms. The American Daylily Society (known as AHS, *American Hemerocallis Society*) recognizes the following forms for registration and exhibition purposes: single, double, spider, unusual form, sculpted and polymerous flowers.



Single - Daylily flowers that have three petals, three sepals, six stamens and one pistil (comprised

of three carpels) are known as “single” daylilies. A single daylily flower may occasionally have fewer or more.

That’s a mouthful! In layman’s terms, a single daylily is one that has blooms with 6 petals. 3 inner, 3 outer.



Double – These daylilies, like single daylilies, come in different forms. But doubles have extra whorls (layers) of petals so that there appears to be a flower within a flower. ‘Peony type’ doubles have petaloid (petal-like) stamens inside the normal petal whorl.



Spider – This is a flower whose petals have a length-to-width ratio of at least 4 to 1 (i.e., 4:1). Length is measured with the segment fully extended. Width measurement is taken as the flower grows naturally. These long, thin petaled daylilies are highly sought after and sometimes hard to find in your local garden centers



Unusual Form — A class of daylilies based exclusively on the shapes of the petals or sepals. These shapes include **Crispate** (pinched - floral segments with sharp folds giving a pinched or folded effect, **twisted** - floral segments which present a corkscrew or pinwheel effect, or **quilled** - floral segments turn upon themselves along their length to form a tubular shape.), **Cascade** - narrow floral segments with pronounced curling or cascading, which revolve upon themselves in the manner of a wood shaving, and **Spatulate** - floral segments markedly wider at the end like a kitchen spatula. One or more of these shapes must be displayed on at least 3 petals or 3 sepals.



Polymerous – is an adjective used to designate a daylily with more than the normal number of segments in each floral whorl, i.e., more than the normal three sepals (usually four or five) in the outer whorl and more than three petals (usually the same number as sepals) in the inner whorl. To sum it up, there are thousands of Daylilies to

choose from. In southwest Iowa, they are ideal flowers. Low maintenance, drought resistant, nearly bug and disease free. Best thing is that there is a daylily for everyone. Different shapes, colors, and sizes. Here are a few.



Ruby Clare Mims



Heavenly Gardens



Moussaka

You can divide daylilies almost any time, but it is best not to divide when the bloom stalks have started. Once this begins, it is best to wait until they are done blooming. The end of August or beginning of September is another good time. Once replanted, the plants need enough time to get reestablished.

Caring for daylily plants is very easy. They require little to no fertilizer. Mulching around them helps to keep the moisture in during the hot dry summer. If it is extremely hot and dry, and bloom stalks have started, you may want to water them in the early mornings. However, a new daylily disease--a type of rust--has been spreading throughout the county, attacking many plants. To control this disease, keep the area around daylilies open and airy, remove diseased foliage, and water plants when rainfall is insufficient. Try to water at the base of the plants to avoid getting all the leaves wet.

Another thing you can do to make your daylily bed look their best, is to deadhead. Pull the dead blooms off every morning.

If you see seed pods forming, just snap them off. This will keep the plants energy on making new bloom stalks, if it is a rebloomer, or spend it on making new plants in the clump.



Another reason to pull off the seed pods, is you have no idea what other daylily it was pollinated with. Hybridizers spend thousands of hours carefully selecting and breeding the daylilies. Then, years planting the seeds to see what they produced. Many are failures. It takes years to get a daylily to the point of registering and naming. But if you have the time and skills, you could come up with some beautiful bloomers!



Visit Your Local County Fair

July is a month filled with County Fairs. Our 4-H youths are showing off projects that they have been working on since last fall. Others are done just shortly before fair. And of course, they have been tending the vegetables and flowers since spring. It now comes down to, "the day of" pickings to bring for judging.



If you like walking through the barns and display buildings, showing at the fair might be for you! Ever catch yourself looking at the cucumbers or green beans and think to yourself, “Mine looks better than these”. Even the flowers!

You should give showing at the fair a try! It is very easy. Superintendents and helpers are on hand to help you make your entries. The fair book with all the divisions, classes, and rules, are normally online or available at your local County ISU Extension office. Copies are also at the place of entry. Hint, there is always a “Other Than Named” class for categories not in the fair book.

Divisions for open class entries are; **Horticulture and Ag** (vegetables and grain crops), **Floriculture** (flowers and potted plants), **Home Economics** (textiles, clothing and quilting) **Photography** (photos you have taken) **Panty Store** (baking, canning and preserving), **Hobbies and crafts** (art, jewelry, collections and just about anything you can make).



Even if you do not show anything at the fair, go and support our youth! They have work so hard on all their projects, including all the livestock. Many learn from their parents and grandparents, keeping strong the traditions and ways of life of the Iowa Farmers. Something to be proud of, the way of life in our rural communities, with strong ties to the land.



**Head
Hands
Heart
Health**

Swiss Chard

Chard or Swiss chard is a green leafy vegetable. In the cultivars of the Flavescens group The leaf stalks are large and often prepared separately from the leaf blade; the Cicla Group is the leafy spinach beet. Though beet greens are delicious, beets are usually cultivated for their roots while Swiss chard is cultivated for its leaves.



Swiss chard’s place of origin is Sicily, Italy. Legend has it that a Swiss botanist was responsible for determining the scientific name and ‘Swiss’ stuck. When swiss chard is used for cooking, it is common to remove the stock and just use the leaves. Many do not use the stock because of its bitterness. Bitterness is caused by the organic compound found in many vegetables, oxalic acid. Oxalic acid is found in the stalks and can be cooked out. When cooked properly, the vegetable loses the bitter flavor and makes for a more refined taste. The plants can grow up to 2 feet tall. There are several bright colors, yellow, red, purple and white stocks, giving your garden a fun flare. In ancient times, swiss chard was used as a medicine to treat allergies, constipation, and general pain. The leafy greens are extremely high in vitamin K, vitamin A, vitamin C, and antioxidants. No wonder it was considered medicine. This nutrition combo makes for a good dose of healthy digestion, eyes, skin, heart, and immune function.





Summer Panzanella

YIELD: Serves 4 to 6 PREP TIME: 15 mins.
 GRILL: Medium high TOTAL TIME: 25 mins.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 c. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing
- 2 3/4"-thick slices country bread
- 1 medium zucchini or summer squash, halved
- 1/2 large red onion, cut into 4 wedges
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 4 c. diced mixed tomatoes (such as heirloom, vine-ripened, cherry, and grape)
- 1 c. cubed fresh mozzarella
- 1/2 c. packed fresh basil leaves, torn into bite-size pieces
- Balsamic glaze, for drizzling

DIRECTIONS:

Heat grill to medium-high and oil the grates. Brush bread, zucchini, and onion all over with oil and season with salt and pepper. Grill bread and veggies until bread is lightly charred and toasted, 30 seconds to 1 minute per side, and zucchini and onion are lightly charred and crisp-tender, 3 minutes per side. Transfer grilled bread, zucchini, and onion to a work surface. Rub garlic on both cut sides of the bread, then let everything cool slightly. Cut bread into bite-size cubes, thinly slice zucchini crosswise, and chop onion. In a large bowl, whisk together oil and the vinegar, then season with salt and pepper. Add bread cubes, zucchini, onion, tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil. Toss to combine and drizzle with balsamic glaze before serving.



Do You Remember When?

Fourth of July was the day you had been waiting for! Neighborhood picnic and Fireworks!! Back then everyone knew their rural neighbors. They often worked together when help was needed. This led to many lifelong friendships. So, it was only natural to have this summer holiday celebration together. I remember Mom would mix up the homemade ice cream. My Dad would then churn it in the afternoon. My brother would help him. It was fun for the first few minutes of turning the crank, but quickly became a chore and Dad would take back over. Mom was making cucumber salad, deviled eggs and a fancy red, white and blue Jello salad. Brats, hotdogs and hamburger patties were prepped and ready in the fridge. It was a must, that Mom make her Corning Airport potato salad. She had convinced the proprietor of the restaurant to give her the recipe, as it was my Dads' favorite! When it was getting close to the time we were going to leave, she packed it all so carefully in the brown weaved picnic basket. We had fancy Melmac plates, colored aluminum cups and used silverware, not plastic. Mom always packed a couple of picnic table covers made of terri cloth. Everything was put into the car. The ice cream, churn and all, had been drained of water and packed with ice, then wrapped with burlap and covered with a thick heavy blanket to hold the cold in. Mom didn't have to tell us twice, because we were ready to go!

The smell of charcoal grilling was in the air. The ladies had all the food laid out on tables in the yard. It all looked and smelled so good! Everything was homemade, the vegetables and fruits grown in the gardens from all who came.

As kids, we couldn't eat fast enough so we could go play. Running through the yard, playing tag and other fun games, waiting for it to get dark enough to start the fireworks! Our Dads were the ones who bought the fireworks and were almost more excited than we were. We were given sparklers first, running around, swirling them as we went! Oh, what fun!!

Everyone was sitting in their lawn chairs, lined up facing the gravel road, for a good view. The dads were out on the road lining up the order of the fireworks. It was so hard to wait. Pop bottle rockets were first, building our anticipation for the larger ones to come. They threw a few M-80's and Cherry Bombs across the road to give us a loud thrill. Do you remember those?

Have a safe and Happy Fourth of July! 😊



July UP COMMING EVENTS



- **July 4, 2022 – Independence Day**
- **July 6, 2022 – Glenwood Farmers Market**, 4pm to 6:30pm
- **July 8, 2022 – Mills County Fair** opens to the public
- **July 13, 2022 – Glenwood Farmers Market**, 4pm to 6:30pm
- **July 12, 2022 – [Safe Food for a Healthy Future - Child Care Provider Training](#)**. 6 – 8 pm, Online
- **July 20, 2022 – Glenwood Farmers Market**, 4pm to 6:30pm
- **July 27, 2022 – Glenwood Farmers Market**, 4pm to 6:30pm
- **Mills County Master Gardener Facebook Page**
<https://www.facebook.com/MillsCountyMasterGardeners>
- **Iowa Master Gardeners Facebook Page**
<https://www.facebook.com/iamastergardeners/>
- **The Plant Sleuths Facebook Page** – Check this page for any insect or plant problem. Download clear pictures and the group will help with answers.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/291895194628196>

July GARDENING TO DO LIST



- **Tomatoes** – Put mulch or straw all around the tomato plants. This helps to reduce tomato blight that come from the soil when rain or water splashes up onto the plant.
- **Deadhead** – To promote plant to continue producing flowers all summer, cut off the old blooms to prevent them from making seed pods. Many plants will stop flowering if they go to seed.
- **Petunias** – Cut back your petunias to promote new growth along with new blooms.
- **Newly Planted** Trees and shrubs. Continue to keep a good watering regiment for the first full year, helping them become established.
- **Hummingbirds** – Feeders should be cleaned and filled with new juice every couple of days. When it is very hot, you may have to do it daily. Use smaller amounts to avoid wasting. Put ant guards on your feeding stations.
- **Baltimore Orioles return** – Continue to feed the Orioles. They will slow down on feeding because they are nesting and natural food that are available. They will return to feeding at your feeders as the fledgling begin to leave the nest. Clean feeders every couple days.

- **Summer Squash** – Keeping the stem of the squash plant covered helps keep the Squash Vine Bore from finding it. If your plant wilts suddenly, check for the Squash Vine Bore larva.
- **Onions** – As you harvest onions, let them dry and cure for 2 weeks in a cool dry place with plenty of air circulation.
- **Harvest vegetables** – as soon as they get to size, letting them get to large loses some of the flavor.
- **Potatoes** – you can dig along the side of your potato plants for some small fresh potatoes to eat with your fresh peas.
- **Garlic** – As the plants begin to die, you can dig you garlic up. Let it cure (dry) in a cool shady area with good ventilation.

Resources for Horticulture information **Iowa State University Publication**

PIDC 48	Safe Mushroom Foraging
PM 870B	Container Vegetable Gardening
HORT 3087	Cole Crops
PM 1894	Garlic
RG 501	Pruning Raspberries
PM 820	Garden Soil Management
PM 819	Planting a Home Vegetable Garden
PM 534	Planting and harvesting times for Garden vegetables
PM 870A	Small Plot Vegetable Gardening
RG 111	Creating Raised Bed Planters
HORT 3091	Tomatoes
HORT 3085	Onions
PM 1072	Establishing a Lawn from Seed

Horticulture Publications on-line

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ListCategories>

ISU Hotline Links and Numbers

Hotlines available for all

Iowa Concern 800-447-1985 Financial questions, legal education, stress counseling, crisis/disaster resources and referral (24 hrs - all days)

Beginning Farmer Center 877-BFC-1999 Program to match beginning and retiring farmers (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Teen Line 800-443-8336 Personal and health-related information and referral (24 hrs - all days)

Iowa 2-1-1 211 Resource referral for housing, health, food, family, transportation, employment, education, and legal assistance (24 hrs - all days)

Hot lines available for Iowa Residents Only

AnswerLine Toll-free: 800-262-3804 Local: 515-296-5883 Questions relating to home and family (9 am-noon & 1-4 pm)

Iowa Healthy Families 800-369-2229 Health information and referral (24 hrs - all days)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.



