

Daylily

Hemerocallis spp.

Daylilies are among the most popular perennials grown in Florida. Despite the common name it is not in fact a lily. These hardy plants are relatively pest-free and have a long blooming period. One reason for daylilies' popularity is its variety. The plants are available in different growth habits, mature sizes, flower shapes and colors, including yellow, orange, red, pink, purple, and creamy white. Some daylilies are evergreen, while others are deciduous. Flowering starts in March for early-season bloomers while late-season daylilies won't bloom until mid-May. The typical bloom period is about four to seven weeks, although some varieties bloom even longer. Daylilies are most effective when planted in groups of 10 or more plants all of the same color or of related hues. Daylily flowers vary in size from a few inches up to 10 inches. Most are about 5–6 inches across. The flower buds and petals are edible raw, boiled, stir-fried, steamed, stuffed, or battered and fried.

Type: perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 10

Uses: border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; accent

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 1 to 3 feet **Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

Plant spacing: 12 to 24 inches

Light requirement: full sun or filtered shade

Soil tolerances: acidic to slightly alkaline; clay; sand; silt; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Salt tolerance: High

Plant spacing: cultivar dependent

Invasive potential: not invasive

Pest and disease resistance: rarely bothered by pests; susceptible to diseases

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Photo: UF/ IFAS