

The Garden Path

The path to an environmentally sound and beautiful landscape

Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own
Charles Dickens

DAYLILY, HEMEROCALLIS

By B J Wright, Master Gardener, Warren County



Do you want plants that are easy to grow, provide blooms over a fairly lengthy period, adapt well to most growing mediums and provide good color in your landscape? Then choose a daylily. Hemerocallis is the name given to the daylily group. The name is derived from Greek terms meaning Hemero (for a day) and Callis (beauty), i.e. beauty for a day. The individual blooms last for only a day, however new buds on scapes (stalks) open almost daily. Daylilies are a hardy perennial which have clumps of foliage. Scapes extend above the leaves from 18 inches to five feet and blooms range from less than 3 inches to well over 4 ½ inches in diameter.

For daylilies to achieve good growth, they should receive 6–8 hours of sun a day. They like a mildly acidic soil, pH of 6.0–6.5. Daylilies can grow in soil types from light sand to heavy clays. The area should be tilled deeply to relieve any compact soil.

Daylilies in our area can be planted any time of the year. If purchased from a farm, plants will be bare root. They should be taken home in clumps then the roots should be cleaned of soil, clumps divided, and foliage cut back

to 8-10 inches before planting 18-24 inches apart to prevent overcrowding. Set the plant to the point where foliage/roots union is no deeper than one inch below soil level. Water plant thoroughly, they will need about 1 inch of water per week until well established. Adequate watering will promote good growth and flowering. Fertilizing is recommended in the early spring just as new growth begins. A second application may be applied in the fall.

The only question you may have about daylilies is, “Where do I want to plant this beautiful specimen?” Daylilies come in a variety of colors: red, yellow, pink, near white, purple, orange, just to name a few. Some are tall, some short. Some are fragrant, some are rebloomers.

Be sure and check them all out...there is one out there just for you.

Some Thoughts on Caring for Iris

By Heidi Moore, Master Gardener, Warren County

May is the month that most of your iris will be in bloom. Once the bloom stalks are spent, be sure to cut them back to keep the area clean. After blooming is finished, it is time to trim foliage back to six inches high. Foliage can be cut back again in the fall.

Transplanting can begin six weeks after the plants have completed their bloom season. That gives the iris time to establish their root systems and grow to a good size plant before winter. It is recommended that you dig and transplant your iris every four years, as blooming will diminish if the rhizomes become crowded and start to grow over each other. Fungal leaf spot, aphids, and iris borers are problems to be on the lookout for.

To contain fungal diseases use Chlorothalonil, copper hydroxide or dimethyl 4-4, rotating every ten days until weather turn hot and dry. Malathion is a good remedy for aphids that can be a persistent problem.

JUNE TO DO !

Landscaping & Lawn Care

By Onda Marable, Master Gardener, Vance County

- Fertilize all trees and shrubs with a slow-release fertilizer that will last 2 to 3 months
- Check your irrigation system for leaks. A timer, if your system does not have one, would be a good investment. It will save time and water
- To stop the fall flop of chrysanthemums, Joe Pye weed, sunflowers and other fall blooming plants cut back by half their current growth. Remember some of these bloomers are easy to root. Give rooting a try and share with friends and family.
- Stake any summer blooming plants that will flop because of height and weight of the blooms
- Check the foliage of your spring bulbs. Only cut back if the foliage is brown or yellow. Remember these bulbs are storing energy for next year's blooms.
- Remember that most plants need at least an inch of water per week during the hot summer months. Water if Mother Nature does not provide.

Fruits and Veggies

By Carl Shafer, Master Gardener, Vance County

- Check previous months TO DO lists as many items continue to be relevant.
- If you have had problems with brown rot in the past on your fruits, continue with fungicide sprays. Always follow label instructions.
- Prune out fire blight damaged wood on your fruit trees. Sterilize your pruners between cuts.
- Make repeated plantings of vegetables based on space availability and your likes.
- Control annual weeds by mulching and hand weeding.
- If you are planning to raise your own transplants for a fall garden, you need to start seeds in June to have plants ready for setting out in early August. Plants to try include: Brussel Sprouts, Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Cabbage.

ROSE TIPS FOR THE MONTH

By Heidi Moore, Master Gardener, Warren County

Continue to care for your roses, being particularly diligent with fertilizing every two weeks and spraying every week for diseases and harmful insects. Deadheading is another important part of the maintenance program. Spent roses should be cut and removed from the area, keeping your roses free from debris which can harbor both unwanted insects and diseases. Also, be sure your roses have enough water. June is also the month we have to contend with the dreaded Japanese Beetle. If you have just a few rose bushes, you might be able to hand-pick the beetles and drop them into a bucket with soapy detergent water. If you have several bushes, and the beetle population becomes overwhelming, carbaryl is what I find to be the best defense. I prefer carbaryl in powder form rather than liquid. It seems to control these pests for a longer period of time. I only have to redust my roses every week to keep them under control. Important Tip: Do not use beetle traps around your garden. The traps attract more beetles to the area. If you have a great neighbor who doesn't mind, put the trap in their yard and send the pests to them.

Be on the lookout for your roses producing suckers shooting from the root area below the crown union. Be sure to dig away the soil and cut these suckers away at the root. If left unattended, this new growth will take over the plant and it will revert back to root stock, hence loosing your prized hybrid.

PESTS!!

By Cynthia Dickinson, Master Gardener, Warren County

BROWN SOFT SCALE

Living adult female brown soft scales are pale yellowish-green to yellowish brown, often mottled with brown spots. Older females are brown. The body is usually oval in outline, up to 3/16 inch in length and slightly convex in profile. The shape tends to vary according to position on the host plant. Males are rare, but resemble tiny wasps or flies. In North America they occur out of doors in the deep South, and north along the eastern seaboard to Virginia.

Brown soft scale has been reported feeding on hundreds of different plants. It can survive on most greenhouse plants, but seems to prefer perennials to annuals. Ferns are a favored host. Brown soft scale is frequently encountered on indoors plants.

Infestations of brown soft scale can become so heavy that they encrust the stems and petioles of their host plant. They also settle on leaves, usually along midribs and occasionally on the fruit. Large colonies remove large quantities of plant fluids and can cause wilting, but they seldom kill their host. Immature and adults produce much honey dew that serves as a medium for the growth of sooty molds. These fungi inhibit photosynthesis and make infested plants unsightly. Obnoxious insects such as ants and wasps are also attracted to feed on the honeydew. Brown soft scales are surprisingly difficult to control even though there is no external egg stage, and only the body of the mother protects a few very young nymphs at any one time.

The following pesticide formulations should control brown soft scales if thoroughly applied to infested plants. A second application may be necessary. Wait about 10 days between applications. Never set an ornamental plant out in the sun to treat it. Pesticide injury may result. Keep treated plants in the shade or treat during the cooler parts of the day so the foliage will dry before the plant is exposed to direct sunlight.



- Acephate** 9.4% emulsifiable concentrate:
Outdoors only: 3 tablespoons per gallon of water
- Azadirachtin** 3% emulsifiable concentrate: 1/2
teaspoon per gallon of water
- imidacloprid** 75% wettable powder: landscapes and
interiorscapes - apply as drench
- *malathion** 50 to 57% emulsifiable concentrate: 2
teaspoons per gallon of water
- *oil (horticultural or summer)** 98 to 99% emulsifiable
concentrate: 8 teaspoons per gallon of water
- *pyrethrins** 6% emulsifiable concentrate: 1/8 to
1-1/2 teaspoons per gallon of water
- *soap** 50.5% emulsifiable concentrate: 2 to 5
tablespoons per gallon of water

* Suitable for home use.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Marty Finkel, Master Gardener, Granville County

Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea virginica*



One of the showier white-flowering shrubs, Virginia Sweetspire, starts its show mid to late April and continues into June. It usually grows 3' to 5' tall and its spread is variable, since it expands by suckering at a modest rate.

It has a graceful, arching habit, and the flowers grow as 3" to 6" long, lightly fragrant racemes. It grows in light shade to full sun, and while it prefers moist soil, it tolerates drier conditions. It will be a fuller, more densely branched shrub in full sun, and when planted in masses, it is a spectacular sight. Another show is put on in the fall when the leaves change to yellow, orange, reddish purple, scarlet, and crimson.

There are several noteworthy cultivars in the nursery trade, with 'Henry's Garnet' probably the most popular. It grows 3' to 4' high and about twice as wide with age. Its flowers approach 6" in length, and the fall color is brilliant reddish purple. A very desirable cultivar that is becoming easier to find is 'Little Henry,' a more compact form that still will reach about 3' to 4' tall. Another more compact grower than the species or 'Henry's Garnet' is 'Merlot,' which will mature at around 3 to 3½' tall.

This is one shrub that gives a lot with little or no trouble. It is very adaptable to most soil pH situations, has little or no disease or insect problems, transplants well from a container, and is easy to propagate. Just pull or dig up runners and pot or plant them.



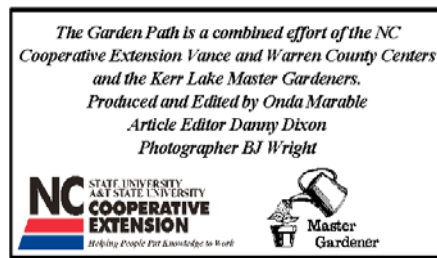
INTERESTING TIDBITS

By Marty Finkel, Master Gardener, Granville County

In the Spring 2008 issue of *Carolina Gardener* magazine, Dick Bir has an article on “Peonies for the Carolinas,” which every peony lover will appreciate. He lists ‘Krinkled White’ and ‘Gay Paree,’ which have been growing well in Denny Werner’s (Director of the JCRA) Raleigh garden for 15 years. John Elsley, who gardens in Greenwood, SC, says these cultivars have been excellent in his garden: ‘Terrific Gal,’ ‘Lullaby Blessings,’ ‘Extra Sweet Pink,’ ‘Abalone Pearl,’ ‘Pink Princess,’ ‘Soft Salmon Joy,’ ‘Pink Luau,’ and ‘Do Tell.’ The pictures in the article are breathtaking, so you might want to look it up. If you’re not a peony lover, this will go far to inspire investigation.

If you happen to have any old (or now unused) skateboards hanging around, this tip might be useful – use it to move containers around in the garden, deck, patio, etc. Just tip the container and slide the skateboard under it. If your knees are good, you might use it to sit on to weed.

When staking plants using twine, jute, or other string, leave extra long ends after you tie the plant to the stake. Later, when you’re in that area again, you can just cut off the long ends to use for tying more plants to stakes and won’t have to go to the shed for twine. This and the skateboard bit came from the June 2008 issue of *Fine Gardening* magazine (No. 121).



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