

The Appasian Way

We are pleased to include some tips for growing great daylilies from fellow club member Darryl Apps. Woodside Nursery is one of the best kept, disease and pest free nurseries in the state. A visit in the Spring is something everyone who enjoys well grown daylilies should plan.

Here are some of Darryl's tips to keep your plants in top shape.

1. Around May 1 give your plants a little protection from thrips, that cause disfiguring mottling in daylily flowers. Orthene, a popular, easily applied systemic spray is one of the best insecticides for this purpose and need only be applied once. Add a fungicide to the spray at the same time to head off leafstreak and other fungal diseases. Darryl suggests Cleary's formula 3336, but other formulations active against rust also work.
2. Wait until the foliage is about 10" tall before adding a good garden fertilizer (10-10-10). Applying too early can result in weak foliage and susceptible plants. If you really want to pamper your plants apply a couple of tablespoons of Osmocote or similar slow release fertilizer around each clump. Osmocote is a reasonably priced fertilizer when purchased at a nursery supply house in 50# bags (around \$60) and is well worth the expense.
3. Slugs are the ruination of daylily foliage if left to toads alone. Around the second or third week in May, telltale bubbles and/or small slime trails appear on foliage that is being attacked by baby slugs. Once the slugs have emerged, Molluscicide should be applied around each plant when there is going to be a warm moist evening,. Several formulations containing methaldehyde are effective if there is a good attractant in the pellets. Use Deadline Mini Pellets, widely available on the internet for around \$15 for a 10# bag – enough to treat an acre and repeat application, with a broadcast spreader, each month through August. For those who have pets in the yard Sluggo, a more environmentally friendly pellet, also works well.
4. Be ever alert to the possibility of rust, especially if you order from southern growers. We in the north, where freezing weather kills the rust spores benefit from the automatic sterilization effect of winter. Those of us whom are unfortunate enough to have had rust can eliminate it with the proper fungicides. Call Dick Dardas or Mary Lovaz if you have a "rust emergency".