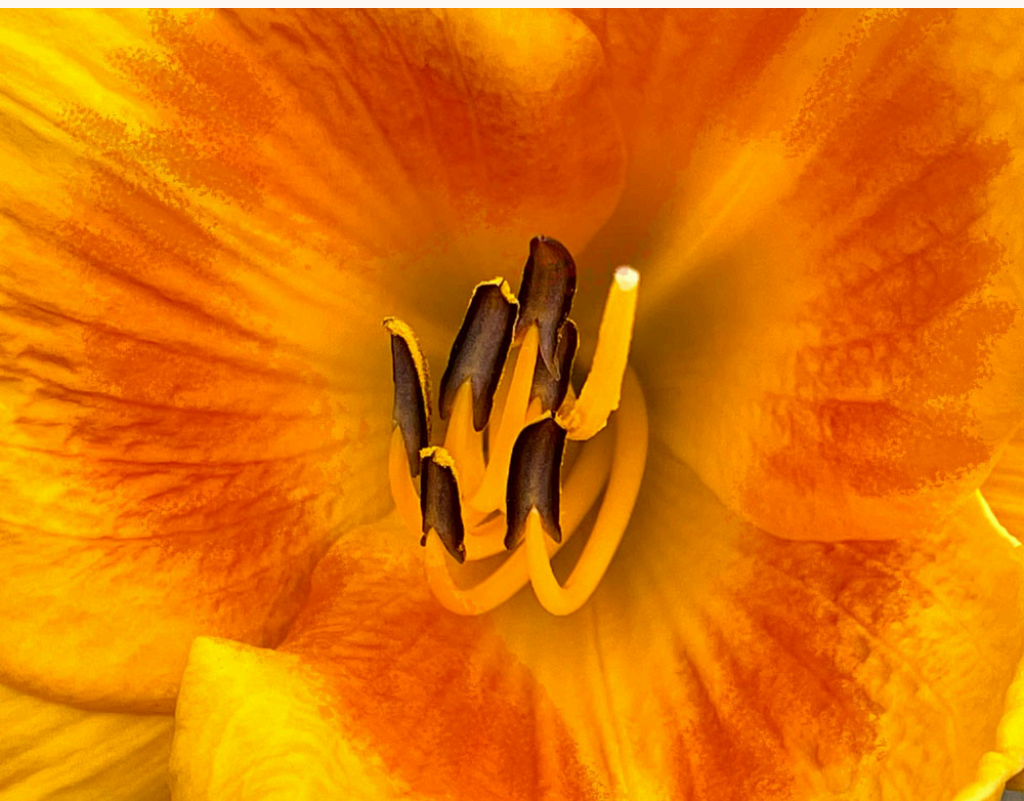


Daylilies – Care & Growing Conditions in New Zealand



INTRODUCTION

Daylilies

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) are one of the easiest and most rewarding perennials to grow in New Zealand gardens. Known for their hardiness, vibrant blooms, and adaptability, daylilies thrive in a wide range of conditions and can flower for extended periods when the right varieties are selected.

They will grow almost anywhere and they flower from October to January and March to April. When you choose the correct variety for your particular location they may flower up to six months each year.

With just a little care, they'll reward you with stunning colour year after year.

"Like the daylily, we bloom brightest
when we honour our own timing."



TIPS

Tips for successful daylily growing

1. Choose the right variety for your region

New Zealand's climate varies from north to south, so pick varieties suited to your conditions. In colder areas, deciduous types handle frost better, while evergreen varieties thrive in milder zones.

2. Plant in a sunny spot

Daylilies love the sun! Aim for at least 4–6 hours of direct sunlight daily. Morning sun with some afternoon shade is ideal, especially in hot northern regions.

3. Prep the soil well

Loosen soil to a depth of 30cm and mix in compost or aged manure a few weeks before planting. A free-draining loam is ideal — daylilies hate soggy roots!

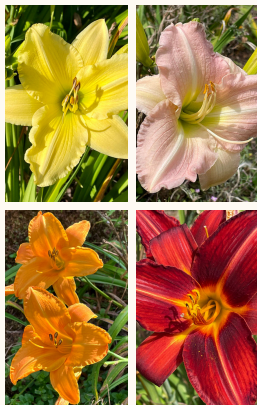
4. Water deeply but not too often

After planting, water well to help roots establish. Once established, water twice a week during blooming, especially in dry spells. Avoid overwatering, especially in clay soils.

5. Mulch, mulch, mulch

A layer of mulch helps retain moisture, keeps weeds down, and improves soil over time. Use bark, pea straw, or leaf litter — just keep it clear of the crown.

CHOOSE THE
RIGHT
VARIETY FOR
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6. Deadhead and trim regularly

Remove spent blooms and old scapes to encourage more flowers. In winter, cut evergreen varieties back by two-thirds, and completely remove foliage on deciduous types to keep things tidy and healthy.

7. Watch for pests

Slugs and snails love young daylily shoots in late winter. Use organic slug bait or traps. Also check for aphids in spring — soapy water or neem oil will sort them.

8. Talk to your daylilies

It might sound silly, but plants thrive on good energy. A little chat, a compliment, or even a morning hello can go a long way. *Happy gardeners grow happy gardens!*

Caring for daylilies - 1

Where to plant

Daylilies are incredibly tough and can grow almost anywhere in Aotearoa.

However, to get the best out of them:

- **Sunlight:** Choose a sunny, well-drained spot. They need a minimum of 4–6 hours of direct sunlight daily. Morning sun through early afternoon is ideal, especially in hotter regions.
- **Drainage:** Avoid areas where water tends to sit. Daylilies dislike “wet feet”, especially in heavy clay soils. If drainage is poor, consider raised beds or amend the soil with organic matter.

With the right selection of varieties, especially repeat-flowering types, you can enjoy blooms from October through to January, and again in March and April – potentially up to six months of flowering each year!

When to plant

Daylilies can technically be planted year-round, but for best results:

- **Ideal planting times:** Autumn, spring, and early summer.
- **Avoid extreme heat or frost periods** if planting out newly divided clumps.

Watering

- **At planting:** Water thoroughly and apply a mulch to conserve moisture.
- **During bloom season:** Water twice weekly to ensure large, healthy blooms.
- **Clay soils:** Be careful not to overwater – soggy soil can cause root rot.

Soil preparation

Daylilies aren’t overly fussy, but they do appreciate a bit of prep:

1. Dig the soil to a depth of around 30cm.
2. Incorporate compost, aged animal manure, or blood and bone a month before planting.
3. Soil type: A good, well-drained loam is ideal. Avoid very rich or soggy soils.
4. Spacing: Plant 60–90cm apart to allow airflow and room to grow.
5. Planting depth: Cover only the crown – do not bury deeply.



Enjoying daylilies: Simple beauty that reliably returns.

Caring for daylilies - 2

General garden care



- Mulch regularly to conserve water and suppress weeds – pea straw or bark mulch are great options.
- Deadhead spent blooms and remove scapes (flower stems) once flowering has finished.
- Tidy foliage: Remove dying or yellowing leaves to reduce pests and disease.
- Evergreen varieties: Cut foliage back by two-thirds in winter to encourage fresh, vigorous spring growth.

Deciduous varieties



Don't be discouraged by the word "deciduous"! These varieties lose their leaves over winter, but that's actually a benefit, especially for colder areas:

- Offers natural protection from frost and snow.
- Produces lush, fresh foliage in spring.
- Many of the most beautiful cultivars are deciduous.

Fertilising



Daylilies respond well to moderate, balanced feeding:

- Spring and Autumn: Use an organic fertiliser in September and March.
- At planting: Add blood and bone or a slow-release fertiliser.
- Seaweed/fish-based liquids can also promote root development and resistance to disease.

Pests & Problems



We strive for organic practices and avoid synthetic sprays. Here's how to manage common issues:

Aphids

- Check new growth for tiny pests and white specks.
- Treat with soapy water, neem oil, or natural insecticidal sprays.

Slugs & Snails



- Especially a problem with tender new growth in late winter and spring, more so on deciduous varieties.
- Use slug bait, crushed eggshells, or beer traps to control them.

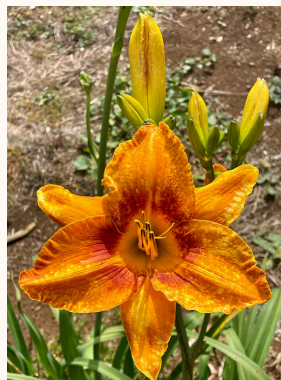
Rust (Fungal disease)



Rust has recently become an issue for daylilies in New Zealand, especially in warm, wet conditions.

Symptoms:

- Orange or rust-coloured powder on the leaves.
- Often appears during overcast, rainy periods.



Caring for daylilies - 3

Prevention & Control:

- In winter, cut back all foliage and clean up plant debris.
- Burn or bury infected material.
- Apply a layer of mulch (e.g., bark chips) to cover any spores in the soil.
- Trim early growth in spring if rust appears – the plant may produce healthy new foliage soon after.
- Spray preventatively or at first signs using:
- Organic options: neem oil, potassium bicarbonate (e.g. Tui Eco-Fungicide), or sulphur-based sprays (e.g. Kiwicare Super Sulphur).
- Chemical options: products with myclobutanil (e.g. Yates Fungus Fighter) or Super Shield (also includes insecticide).

Strengthen plants:

- Foliar sprays of seaweed or fish extracts help strengthen cell walls and improve plant immunity.

Plant height

Most daylily varieties range between 80–100cm in height. In our plant listings or gallery, we indicate which ones are:

- Tall flowering (above 100cm)
- Compact or low-growing (miniatures below 60cm)

This helps with garden design and planning.

Final Tips

- Choose a variety that suits your climate and garden conditions.
- Keep up with seasonal care and your daylilies will thrive for years.
- Consider mixing deciduous and evergreen types for year-round interest and flowering diversity.



Happy planting and enjoy the burst of colour that daylilies bring to your New Zealand garden!

