

# Arcadian Daylilies

August 2004 Newsletter

August 5, 2004

## Do You want to grow the Best Daylilies Possible ?

### We want to help ! – Read On

#### **Garden Pests**

Daylilies are relatively pest resistant, but sometimes we all just get a little uncomfortable if we don't understand the bugs in our gardens.

**Aphids** are probably the # 1 pest in Arcadian Daylilies gardens. Daylilies have their own species of aphid that survives our Canadian winters but never seems to thrive in our gardens. The biggest aphid problems we encounter are with imported plants from the southern USA. Always seems one to two weeks after arrival there are aphids spreading all through the garden. Good news is that they are relatively easy to control using Insecticidal Soap. Our gardens are as close to certified organic as you can get.

Here's a tip - Insecticidal Soap can be expensive in consumer sized packages. Consider getting together with friends or your local Horticultural Society to buy the Agricultural size (10 L) super concentrate that becomes very economical to use.

**Spider Mites** – Puncture the leaves usually on the underside to suck the juices, weakening the plant and leaving wounds that allow bacterial, viral and fungal infections to enter the plant.

**Thrips** – the average garden probably has thousands of species of thrips. Some attack our plants, some attack other bugs, some even eat other thrips. There is no doubt thrips do damage to buds and flowers.

**Bulb Mites** – soil dwelling mites that are almost microscopic. Bulb mites can burrow into the crown of daylilies causing damage to developing foliage and allowing entry for bacterial, viral and fungal infection.

#### **A Few of the Gardener's Best Friends**

The internet is a superb resource for identifying and learning about our friends. Do some research and find some pictures to identify these pals.

**Lacewings** - Adults and larvae feed on aphids, thrips, lice and other larvae. Adults are about 3/8 inch long. Their delicate wings easily identify them.

**Ladybird** - One of the organic gardeners best defenses against aphids. A single ladybird larvae can eat 500 aphids a day. The larvae resemble alligators and are just as ravenous as adult beetles. As well as attacking aphids, ladybugs will attack thrips, tree lice and other larvae.

**Hoverflies** - Their larvae feed on aphids. An individual hoverfly larvae can eat 100 aphids a day.

**Ground Beetles & Rove Beetles** - Night predators feeding on slugs, caterpillars and aphids. Up to 1-inch long, with black or brown shells. They like to hide under yard debris and loose bark. There are many varieties and shapes that eat cutworms, maggots, snails and slugs

**Centipedes** - Centipedes are fast moving that eat all types of small insects.

**Earwigs** – are much misunderstood and maligned. Earwigs are primarily carnivorous attacking aphids, mites and other garden pests.

If there is a shortage of meaty prey they will eat decaying vegetation and even occasionally nibble on flowers and leaves. Their value as a beneficial far outweighs the little damage they do.

## Late Blooming Daylilies

Over the last couple years we have noticed a dramatically increased interest in late season bloom. Mostly for that reason we are opening our Etobicoke garden for 2 weekends of August Bloom.

**August 7 / 8 & Aug 14 / 15**

8 am to 4 pm

at our Etobicoke Garden not far from Sherway Gardens at Hwy 427 & QEW

14 Paula Blvd

directions on our website or phone or email

A couple of our favourite late bloomers

**Peach Rum Festival** is a 2004 introduction from Jackie Pryor – last year PRF bloomed for over a month then rebloomed from the beginning of October through frost until November 6 when 2 weeks of sub freezing weather destroyed the remaining buds. There is nothing that blooms this late and nothing opens this easily after cold nights. Add the diamond dusting, and fragrance that is noticeable from several feet away, and you have one incredible daylily.

**Emperor's Choice** (Benz 1991) – A soft bright lemon yellow, exquisitely ruffled with blooms nestled in the top of the foliage, EC just started blooming this past week and should continue for a while yet.

**Decateur Special** (Davidson-Scott 1986) an older standard that is great for the August/September garden.

### Humber Arboretum

July 25 saw an American Hemerocallis Society Garden Judging Workshop held in the Arboretum gardens. Led by David Kirchhoff (SSM Betty Woods (1991) & SSM Bill Norris (2002)) assisted by Dan Hansen and attended by up and coming hybridizer Chris Rogers, David Dan & Chris stopped in afterwards to rave about the Public Gardens hidden behind Humber College. As of this morning the Stout Silver Medal beds were in full bloom and should continue for several weeks. Last year we saw significant bloom and rebloom in the SSM beds right into mid September.

**PS: If you can't make it to one of our Open Garden dates – we are happy to have garden visitors at other times by appointment – Just phone or E-mail.**

A printer friendly PDF version of this newsletter is available on our website ☺ at [www.ArcadianDaylilies.com](http://www.ArcadianDaylilies.com)

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