

Drought and Stress Resistance

At Arcadian Daylilies we use as many innovations as we can, to grow bigger, better and healthier plants for our customers.

For several years we have been experimenting with the use of Mycorrhizal fungi in our potting mix. Starting last year (2005), every container grown plant we grow is grown with Mycorrhizae.

Mycorrhizal fungi form a symbiotic relationship with the host plant they live on. They colonize the roots of the plant with the host providing carbohydrates to the fungi. The fungi grow in part into the roots of the plant, but also grow hyphae into the soil surrounding the root. These hyphae allow the Mycorrhizae to draw moisture and nutrients to the roots for easy absorption, resulting in a benefit to the host, particularly in stressful conditions.

The benefit is a plant that will have greater resistance to drought and other stresses including transplant shock. The biggest benefit with Mycorrhizae will be seen when plants are grown with irregular watering cycles, or in poor nutrient depleted soils.

These are naturally occurring soil fungi that in some gardens may already be present, however in poor soils or depleted soils, the use of plants grown with Mycorrhizae will ensure faster establishment and better performance.

Our results with Mycorrhizal fungi in container grown plants have been so impressive that we now include Mycorrhizae when our plants are lined out in the ground as well. This means not only better growth in our gardens but faster establishment and better performance when the plants arrive in your garden.

Trust Arcadian Daylilies to be the leader with innovation.

Planting your Mail-order Daylilies

Daylilies recover easily after being bare-rooted and mailed, however there are a few tips that will help.

Soaking the roots in a dilute water soluble fertilizer solution overnight, or at least for a few hours will rehydrate the plants and provide a bit of nourishment for a rapid start. Fertilizer solution of about ¼ normal strength is good.

Composted organic matter dug into the soil around the new plant will help amend any soil, adding ability to retain water to sandy soils and adding porosity to clay.

First watering with a high Phosphorous fertilizer (middle # i.e. 10-52-10) will assist root establishment.

And finally, keeping your new plants well watered the first few weeks will help ensure success.

Public Daylily Gardens at Humber Arboretum

Arcadian Daylilies partnership with the Arboretum continues to build a truly world class daylily collection, illustrating the many styles, sizes, heights and colours of the modern Daylily as well as many historical daylilies from “Apricot” introduced by George Yeld in 1893, onwards.

The Humber Arboretum is a not for profit center for urban ecology on the West Humber River in northwest Toronto. Enter a world of beauty as you wander along trails and boardwalks through gardens, forests, meadows and wetlands.

The Arboretum Daylily collection includes the Stout Silver Medal bed, which winds for 200 feet through an incredible park-like setting featuring mature trees, ponds, immaculate flowerbeds, & open lawns. The Stout bed was specially prepared to illustrate the evolution of the daylily since Hesperus received the first Stout Medal in 1950.

This is the only complete SSM collection in Canada. A handful of the cultivars in this collection are such tender evergreens that they will not survive our Canadian winters. The staff at the arboretum have put the extra effort into moving the most tender of the plants into the greenhouse for the winter and they will be reinstalled in the Stout Medal Bed every spring.

This is not the way daylilies are intended to be grown, however for the purposes of maintaining this historically significant collection for Canadian Daylily enthusiasts to enjoy, the extra effort is being applied.

During 2003, work began on a Collection of Species Daylilies at the Arboretum. These daylilies for the most part have more historical significance than commercial value, and the Humber Arboretum is the perfect place to preserve and display this important plant material.

The Arboretums’ Daylily Species Collection currently contains over 20 species and sub-species that bloom at different times by species from May until September. Did you know some of the species rebloom.

The Humber Arboretum is itself a Joint Project between the City of Toronto Parks, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and Humber College.

Located at the back of Humber College north campus the arboretum is open daylight hours, 365 days a year. Parking for arboretum visitors is free in Lot #1 behind Humber College. Use Entrance “A” to the college.

Access is off of Humber College Blvd west of Hwy 27 and south of Finch Ave. Washroom facilities are available in the residence building adjacent the arboretum.

www.HumberArboretum.on.ca