

# DAYLILY 'ED MURRAY'

## *Hemerocallis* 'Ed Murray'



### 'Ed Murray'

Hybridizer: Grovatt in 1971

ASH Awards

Stout Silver Medal: 1981 Award of Merit: 1978

Honorable Mention: 1975 LAA: 1983

ATG: 1976

## Characteristics

- Type: Perennial
- Zone: 3 to 10
- Height: 30 Inches
- Bloom Time: Midseason
- Bloom Description: Black red with yellow green throat
- Bloom Size: 4 Inches
- Bloom Form: Single
- Plant Trait: Extended bloom
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Suggested Use: Naturalize
- Flower: Showy
- Attracts: Butterflies

## Culture

Daylilies are perennial plants, whose name alludes to its flowers, which typically last about a day. The flowers of most species open in early morning and wither during the following night, possibly replaced by another one on the same scape the next day. Some species are night-blooming. Daylilies are not commonly used as cut flowers for formal flower arranging, yet they make good cut flowers otherwise, as new flowers continue to open on cut stems over several days. Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Does well in a wide range of well-drained soils. Deadhead spent flowers daily for neatness and remove scapes when flowers have completed bloom. Divide to maintain vigor when the clumps become overcrowded.

## Noteworthy Characteristics

Daylilies have been found growing wild for millennia throughout China, Mongolia, Northern India, Korea, and Japan. There are thousand-year-old Chinese paintings showing orange daylilies that are remarkably similar to the flowers that grace modern gardens. It is theorized that daylilies were first brought to Europe by traders along the silk routes from Asia. However it was not until 1753 that daylilies were given their botanic name of *Hemerocallis* by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus. Daylilies were first brought to North America by early European immigrants, who packed the roots along with other treasured possessions for the journey to the New World. By the early 1800s, the plant had become naturalized, and a bright orange clump of flowers was a common site in many homestead gardens. As popular as daylilies were for many hundreds of years, it was not until the late 19th century that botanists and gardeners began to experiment with hybridizing the plants. Over the next hundred years, thousands of different hybrids were developed from only a few wild varieties. There are now over 80,000 registered cultivars.

Genus from the Greek words *hemera* meaning day and *kallos* meaning beauty as each flower lasts but one day.

## Problems

No serious problems. Daylilies are extremely adaptable perennials. They are easy to grow, quick to multiply and virtually pest free.

## Garden Uses

Provides color and contrast to the perennial border when grown in clumps or when massed over larger areas. This species can be effective in curbing soil erosion when planted on slopes. The fountain-like leaves provide elegant foliage, color and texture for the garden when the flowers are not in bloom. Daylilies can crowd out weeds and form a verdant ground cover.