



(612) 373-0710

yard/garden  
radio briefs

August Flowers

(1:25)

Extension Horticulturist Jane McKinnon says bearded

iris need a location in full sun, with well drained weed-free soil of medium fertility and organic matter content. These perennials are not mulched and rhizomes are planted close to the surface on a cone of soil so that roots can be spread to be covered more deeply. Rhizomes should be planted in groups of three to five of the same variety, so that each clump will make a strong splash of color next June. Divisions should be at least eight to ten inches apart. Leaves are cut to a fan of six to eight inches and all damaged or spotted leaves are removed. New growth will appear very quickly.

Daylilies are also divided and transplanted in late summer as each variety finishes its period of bloom. Minnesota growers and garden centers offer colors from palest yellow or pink to deep golds, maroons, and brilliant rose. Dwarf, medium and tall cultivars give the gardener a chance to use daylilies as edging or background plants for perennial borders or landscape plantings. They are almost pest-free and extremely resistant to drought, heat and less than perfect soil conditions. Daylilies are also among the best bank covers and erosion control materials possible for Minnesota conditions.

Chrysanthemums, roses, dahlias and petunias need fertilizing at the beginning of August to insure strong plants and a fine display of color to approach Labor Day and the wonderful Minnesota autumn. August is also the month to fertilize lawns again, re-seed bare spots and renovate places that have become hard, weedy and thin. Remember to water well and deeply whenever fertilizer is applied to any garden plant, turf, flowers or shrubs.

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