



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener
Fayette County

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Fayette County Master Gardener's Association

Association Dues

Dues for 2021 were due by Feb. 28, 2021. To renew your membership, please send a \$20.00 check payable to FCMGA, to:

Kay Fisher
1905 Port Royal Ct.,
Lexington, KY 40504

Newsletter Committee

Susan Miller, Chair
Mary Miller, Co-Chair
Sharon Bennett
Nancy Boland
Stacy Decker
Debbie Johnson

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale."

Lauren DeStefano

Prez Sez: Happy Autumn!

It's that time of year when we get those last vegetables and flowers out of our gardens. Each Fall do you say to yourself "I am going to cut back next spring" but find next spring that you are going to nurseries or ordering plants or seeds? I can't cut back and have to admit I'm already looking forward to the catalogues to brighten the winter.

This time of the year I divide and replant my peonies. One peony is really special to me, one of the many I got from my mother's garden. This peony is a brilliant red and the root is shaped like a red beet. It has struggled to get established but this year it bloomed.



I also have a hydrangea from my grandmother's yard, which has a plain white bloom and is nothing special to anyone who sees it but to me it's beautiful. One great thing about gardening is that it's personal to each of us.

Even though we haven't been able to garden in groups, we are still connected. Not having the annual picnic was a disappointment but we will have another. Keep in touch with other Master Gardeners whenever you get the chance. Think about individual projects or help you can give to your community or neighborhood.

Looking forward to being with you all again,

Ann Henry



WHAT'S IN A NAME? by Susan Miller



Did you ever buy a plant for its name? I bought **Frog in a Blender Caladiums (on the left)** this summer because I couldn't resist the humor (or horror?). It's really pretty too, in a mix with other varieties that have less violent reputations.

There are plants with sweet names – Hens and Chicks, Butter and Eggs, Kangaroo Paws, and who could resist Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate? And then come the heavy hitters – I'll be Damned Azalea, Outhouse Delight Hosta, Brazen Hussy Ranuncula, **Lies and Lipstick daylily** and **Dragon Wing Begonia** (below). And dare I say it – Crotchless Panties daylily? (Named by two horticulturists over a few martinis. They were looking for a name that would sell, and this cultivar is a best seller.) Do you think some of the folks who named these plants might want to take the name back? Or maybe they are in hiding. As you might note, the daylily people have no shame.



Lies and Lipstick Daylily



Dragon Wing Begonia

But the best name of all – and surprisingly, one of the prettiest flowers – is **Baboon Bottom Iris (on the left)**. It stands proud and pink just like its namesake.



It's almost time to say goodbye to summer garden vegetables, so here's a delicious recipe to celebrate the last of the bounty.

GAZPACHO



4 – 5 fresh tomatoes, chopped
Tomato juice
1 medium cucumber, chopped, peeling optional
½ cup chopped bell pepper
½ cup chopped red onion
1 medium garlic clove, chopped
¼ cup olive oil
2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste
Chopped cilantro or basil to garnish

Combine ingredients in a large bowl and add enough tomato juice to cover vegetables. Place in blender or food processor in batches and pulse until vegetables are slightly pureed so that mixture is still chunky. Add more tomato juice if desired. Return to bowl and add salt and pepper to taste. Chill for a couple of hours or overnight. Serve in a bowl or pretty glasses. Garnish with cilantro or basil, croutons and a splash of lime juice.

An amazing once a year transformation



Garden Magic at Midnight

Jeanna Jordan gets a blue ribbon for having the most unique plant – a night-blooming **Cereus**. The gigantic cactus is native to Arizona and the Sonora Desert. Jeanna's aunt gave her the unusual plant in 2014, and it has bloomed one night a year, usually in August, for just a few hours, then the blooms die dramatically around midnight. She has a cadre of plant lovers who wait for a phone call or Facebook message to come quickly when she suspects a show is coming, around 9 or 10 pm. The gorgeous white blooms are six or seven inches in diameter, and Jeanna's plant is on a trellis and a dolly that will barely fit through the door when she rolls it from her patio to spend the winter inside. Give Jeanna a shout if you would like to get on her alert list for next year. Check the Master Gardener Facebook page to see Jeanna's post.



Daylily Addiction

by Mary Miller



A few months after I moved into a new home, a daylily emerged next to the front door. The huge flowers were a wonderful warm shade of yellow, and I managed to identify it as a **Mary Todd**. That annual display of dozens of blooms started my romance with daylilies, and I added several to my yard. My current collection has grown to over 20 different varieties.

Daylilies are almost indestructible. They spread, usually not too aggressively, but generously putting out new shoots and flourishing best if divided every three to five years, a perfect pass along plant for gardening friends.

Daylilies are so easy that even novice gardeners rarely fail, but there are a few tips that help them thrive even more vigorously. If you're sharing your bounty of daylilies, you can dig them up and transplant them almost any time, although early fall and early spring are best, and it helps to cut off flowers and cut back the foliage so that the plant will put its energy into developing rhizomes. When planting, allow at least 18 to 24 inches of space so new plants have room to spread out a bit. Like all transplants, they like plenty of water for the first few weeks, and the crown where rhizomes and foliage meet should be no deeper than an inch under the soil's surface.

Daylilies display incredible variety in shape, color, and size. More than 80,000 named varieties are registered with the American Daylily Society, so that gardeners can indulge their love for everything from brilliant oranges and reds to subtle pinks and peaches. There are no truly blue daylilies although a couple of lavender varieties come very close, and the palest daylilies are usually described as almost white. A daylily variety can have a stunning combination of colors. **Sayville (on the right)** is a sunny yellow with a reddish purple eye and matching thread of color edging the ruffled petals. Daylilies also vary in size and can range in height from 8 inches to 5 feet with blooms as small as 2 inches or as large as 8 inches.



Barbara Mitchell

Daylilies are true to their name. The botanic name for daylily, *Hemerocallis*, means "beautiful for a day" in Greek. That glorious six inch bloom will be limp and unsightly the next day and you can either choose to watch its slow deterioration or snap it off, a task I find oddly satisfying and which has the practical effect of producing more blooms by preventing the plant from forming seed heads.

Daylilies are classified as early, middle and late bloomers and I like to have some of each to extend the blooming season. Daylily foliage can be categorized as dormant (most cultivars), evergreen, and semi-evergreen. Dormant daylilies, well suited for Kentucky, die back to the ground in late fall. Evergreen cultivars retain their leaves throughout the year and are best suited for very warm climates. Semievergreen daylilies retain their leaves when grown in the southern United States, but die back to the ground in colder climates. You may also see the terms tetraploid and diploid: tetraploid daylilies have twice the normal number of chromosomes and tend to have larger blooms, more intense colors and sturdy leaves, also called scapes, while diploid daylilies often have complex shapes, including spiders and doubles. The ultimate daylily honor is to have a daylily registered with your name, and pictured to the right is our daylily celebrity, **Jamie Dockery**, named after a well known daylily addict.



Crimson Ninja

Daylilies are susceptible to some diseases such as leaf streak and rust, although these rarely kill the plant. Some of the preventive methods are standard for any plant disease: cut off affected leaves and dispose of them and try not to overcrowd your plants. If you suspect disease, check out:

<https://extension.psu.edu/hemerocallis-daylily-diseases>

Daylilies grow from rhizomes and differ from true lilies which grow from bulbs. However, beware if you have cats and decide to cut either variety and display them indoors – both are very toxic to cats, even the water from a vase of daylilies can lead to serious illness. Generally, cats don't seem to be interested in outdoor daylilies so problems are rare

To learn more about daylilies, go to:

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/daylily/>



Country Fair Winds



Strawberry Candy