

Daylily History

DISCOVERY

Daylilies found growing “in the wild” in eastern Asia were grouped into several species back in the 18th century. These original plants were generally small, with solid yellow or reddish-marked blooms, shaped like a trumpet. Some were fragrant.

MIGRATION

Collectors in the 19th century brought them to Europe and Great Britain where they often travelled with settlers to America.

HYBRIDIZATION

Late in the 19th century, plant collectors started deliberately crossing the species plants to create larger, more colorful varieties.

EARLY EXAMPLES in the COLLECTION

The first registered daylily is H. ‘Apricot’ by George Yeld in 1893. ‘Apricot’ and over 50 species and early hybrid plants grow in front of the hemlock trees.

The Ohio Hybridizers Historic Daylily Garden is a joint venture of:

Franklin Park Conservatory and
Botanical Gardens
1777 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43203
and
Metropolitan Columbus Daylily
Society
www.columbusdaylilies.org

Ohio Hybridizers Historic Daylily Garden



About the Garden

The daylily garden was originally created in 2005 as a display garden of the American Daylily Society. It was designed to showcase daylilies created by Ohio hybridizers (those who breed daylilies).

Seventy Ohio hybridizers are represented in the collection of over 650 varieties. That is a small number of the over 92,000 registered daylily cultivars (varieties.)

The various beds are comprised of species, early hybrids, historical selections by decade, memorial collections, and award-winning cultivars.

Over 150 Ohio-bred cultivars in the garden have won awards from the American Daylily Society (ADS).

About Daylilies

Daylily is the common name of the plant genus *Hemerocallis*, a term meaning “beauty for a day.” The daylily plant grows from a crown of roots, not a bulb, and each flower generally lasts for only a day. A plant may have many scapes (stems) with branches and buds that will open daily for several weeks during summer months.

Award-Winning Ohio Daylilies

The award process starts with hybridizing members of the ADS nominating their best plants for voting by ADS Garden Judges. Every year the winners receive an Honorable Mention Award. For the next 3 years, garden judges vote for the top 12 to receive an Award of Merit. Finally, after another 3 years, one plant receives the Stout Silver Medal (SSM) Award.

STOUT SILVER MEDAL WINNERS

The SSM is named for famous 20th century American hybridizer Arlow Burdette Stout, who is considered the father of modern daylily breeding. Every year since 1955, one daylily receives the award. This special collection is on the southeast corner of the gardens. The most recent SSM winners are in a small round bed farther to the west.

MOLDOVAN MEMORIAL COLLECTION

Steve Moldovan was a hybridizer from Avon Lake, Ohio. His hybridizing career spanned from the early 1960s through 2007. During those years, he encouraged and advised many other Ohioans with daylily breeding programs. The American Daylily Society annually awards a Steve Moldovan Mentoring Award to an ADS member for life-long mentoring efforts.

