



# THE COASTAL NC DAYLILY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*Pat Mansfield*

This has been a phenomenal season. I STILL have sporadic blooms, and I still have scapes coming up. How fun to have blooms in November! If you also have buds and frost is looming, cut those scapes and put them in a vase to enjoy them inside.

Our next meeting will be **November 15 at 2:00 PM** in the Fellowship Building at Great Hope Baptist Church. The address is 131 Great Hope Church Road, Hertford, NC. We will be electing officers so please plan to attend. Our Youth members will be in charge of refreshments.

Please be sure to bring a daylily friend with you to our meeting and let's keep our membership growing.

Our topic of discussion will be the Genetics of Daylilies. Just as we Homo sapiens are unique and carry the genetics of both our parents, so do the beautiful hemerocallis species. We will discuss Dr. Carr's Color chart and how dominant and recessive genes might express themselves in a daylily cross. We will also talk about how to "read" the Parentage of a registered daylily.

Now is the time to get your daylilies ready for winter. You truly don't have to do anything to them, but I like to remove all the sad foliage and spent scapes from the growing season. I've started cutting the foliage back to around 6" high and cleaning up all that old yucky stuff. After cutting you can spray down into your plant with an insecticide to clean up any overwintering critters.

Hope to see you November 15th! - Pat



If you have Daylily seed to share, put them in a bag, label them and bring them to our November meeting. We will have a table set up for your seed gifts. Want to try your hand at growing daylilies from seed but you don't have any? Check out the Seed Share table and take some seed home!



## Bathroom sign of the month

I guess this means that all employees should applaud the moon and planets when they use the facility.

## Cartoon of the month



## Help Wanted



Janet Hong

As Pat said in the October Newsletter, we have a lot of work in the can for the upcoming Fall Regional Meeting, but we still have some loose ends to stitch together [pun intended]. We never worked on the costumes needed for the opening of the event and for the spectacular end to the first night. What we need to **make** are 3 – 1890's women's bathing suits, one for Pat, Beverly and me. And what we need to **find** are 3—1960's prom dresses... for 2 adults, and one junior (Abbie). Ken has made the "breakaway" tux for President Bill Hurt... all it needs is a daylily boutonniere and 2 dressers to get him into it in 15 seconds.

If you know which end of a needle to hold [or not] and want to help, please talk to me at our next meeting. This WILL be fun!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN



2021 CNCDS dues are due. Just think of all of the benefits you may miss, for a meager 1,000 pennies. Fellowship with fellow daylily growers at least 6 times a year. Monthly Newsletters to keep you informed, educated, and entertained. People you can turn to for help in growing the perfect perennial. And the chance to grow and keep some of the newest daylily cultivars that grow in the region, with our Plants for Members Program.

See TREASURER Ernie Wahler at the November meeting... he'll gladly accept cash or a check.

# Your seeds have germinated. Now what?

by Pat Mansfield

After germinating daylily seeds, what do you do with them to encourage your babies to grow and eventually produce blooms? Let's discuss a few points that will help you get them from germination to blooms.

Before anything else, seedlings need water, light, and temperature protection. Later on, they will benefit from a tiny bit of fertilization.



Seedlings are extremely sensitive to having the right amount of water. Too much or too little can kill them. Too much water will kill them quicker than too little, but both can be deadly to young seedlings. Once they are a couple of months old, they will be less affected by water fluctuations.

The potting medium should be kept evenly moist in the **root zone** of your seedlings but can be a little dry at the top of your container. Push your finger one knuckle deep into the potting medium. If it is moist, you are good, if not, you should water.

Watering from the bottom is better than watering from the top. Watering from the top can encourage fungal problems like damping off. **See "Damping Off"** for more information. To water from the bottom, place your seedling container in a tray, pour water into the tray and give the potting medium time to absorb the water up to the one knuckle depth.

Once your seedlings are a couple of months old, they can benefit from a VERY light – ¼ the normal rate - feeding with a water-soluble fertilizer once per month.

In order for photosynthesis to occur, your seedlings need light. If you have a nice bright East/South facing window, seedlings can get all the light they have to have. But, if you have too many seedlings for your windowsill, and want to encourage stockier growth, consider artificial light from florescent light fixtures, or even grow lights.



Light fixtures need to be a minimum of 12" above your plants.

As your plants grow, adjust the height of your lights. Plants may eventually grow tall enough to touch the lights. At that point, simply give your plants a haircut and repeat as needed.

Many growers leave the lights on all the time to encourage the most growth possible.

**ed. note** - There is another school of thought on how much artificial light plants should get. All you have to do is think about how long the plants will need light, or will naturally be exposed to light, in their ordinary habitats. Some growers believe plants need a **light/dark cycle** to develop properly. They reason that they truly do "rest" during periods of darkness, and probably use this time to move nutrients into their extremities while taking a break from growing. Those growers aim for around 14 to 16 hours of light each day and about 8 hours of darkness, using a timer to switch the lights on and off at the right times.



Daylilies need 60-70 degree temperatures for germination, but beyond germination they can handle much cooler temperatures.

Temperature affects how much your plants will grow. In colder temps they may go dormant and not grow at all. Generally, temperatures at or above 55 degrees will promote growth. Bottom heat is preferable when germinating seed and can be beneficial when growing on seedlings.

There are excellent blogs, articles and books to assist you in your seedling journey. Growing Daylilies from seed is not complicated. Grow some seed and have fun creating your very own daylily baby!



## DAMPING OFF

Damping-Off is a common disease caused by several fungi such as *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Pythium*, *Phytophthora*, *Sclerotinia*, and *Botrytis*. These fungi are present in practically all soils. Damping-off can cause seeds to rot or the death of seedlings, before and after they have emerged from the soil. Often an emerged seedling will have a darkened, water-soaked looking lesion right at the soil surface and the seedling will fall over and die as the lesion expands.

You can prevent the disease by using a sterilized seedling mix, keeping hands, tools, and all surfaces sterilized. Another way to discourage Damping-off is to grow your seedlings as quickly as you can by providing adequate light, water and heat to get them quickly past the new seedling stage. Avoid excessive watering. Waterlogged soil is a breeding ground for fungi. Damping off occurs at the surface and very top of the soil, so watering from the bottom can help you keep your soil surface relatively dry.

# Cinnamon... it's not just for buns.

Here's another tested home remedy that you may want to try with your daylilies. The everyday, nothing special, common variety of ground cinnamon will help prevent damping off disease by killing the fungi that cause it. It also works with other fungal problems exhibited on older plants, such as slime mold and with deterring mushrooms in planters. Take advantage of cinnamon fungicide control by making a cinnamon spray for plants. Stir some cinnamon into warm water and allow it to steep overnight. Strain the liquid through a coffee filter and put the results into a spray bottle. Spray the stems and leave of affected plants, and mist the potting soil in plants that have a mushroom problem.

