

Orange daylily
(*Hemerocallis fulva*)
Day-lily Family (Hemerocallidaceae)

DESCRIPTION

Orange daylily is an herbaceous plant in the Day-lily Family. The narrow leaves and flower-bearing stems arise from underground tubers. The flower buds are edible and are used in Asian cooking.

Height – The leaves are about 12—18 inches tall; leafless flowering stems extend above the leaves to a height of up to 3 feet.

Leaves – Leaves are about 3/4 inch wide and 12—18 inches long with a prominent midvein.

Flowers – Flowers are born on upright stems that are longer than the leaves; each stem produces 10-12 flowers in succession, each lasting only a single day. Blooming occurs in early summer. The individual flowers are about 3--5 inches long with a flaring trumpet shape. They are formed of 6 tawny orange tepals with a darker streak along the midrib; each flower has 6 stamens and a single ovary.

Fruits and seeds – The flowers are sterile, no fruits or seeds are formed.

Roots – The underground parts consist of a cluster of tubers and fleshy roots.

HABITAT

Common daylily occurs on roadsides, river and stream banks, and in disturbed woods. Large patches are often present on the floodplains of rivers and creeks; although flowers are rarely produced in shaded situations the plants grow and spread vegetatively.

DISTRIBUTION

Orange daylily is native to Asia, it has been grown as an ornamental since the late 1800s. Despite its total reliance on vegetative reproduction, it readily escaped from cultivation and is considered invasive in DC, DE, IL, IN, MD, MI, PA, VA, WI, and WV. In early summer, the orange blossoms of *Hemerocallis fulva* are a common sight on roadsides and woods edges throughout Pennsylvania; it also occurs on stream banks and floodplains.



EFFECTS OF INVASION

No data are available on the direct impact of orange daylily on native plants. However, its perennial growth, substantial tubers, and thick fleshy roots give it a distinct advantage over less competitive native plants.

REPRODUCTION AND METHOD OF DISPERSAL

Orange daylily spreads entirely by growth and movement of the tubers as no seeds are formed. Tubers can be dispersed by water along rivers and streams, especially during flood events when tubers may be dislodged from stream bank colonies and carried downstream. It is also spread along roadsides and by grading equipment and snowplows and by gardeners discarding rootstocks from their gardens.

CONTROL

Mechanical – Effective control requires removal of all the tubers. Repeated removal of the tops will weaken the plants but persistence over several years is required for complete eradication to be accomplished.

Chemical – Foliar applications of glyphosate should be effective. Since glyphosate is nonselective and will affect all green vegetation, care should be taken to avoid impacting native plants.

Biological – No biological controls are known at this time.

REFERENCES

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