

HEMEROCALLIS PRODUCTION AND CULTIVATION

GARY FRASER

Southern States Nurseries, Inc.

P.O. Box 405

Macclenny, Florida 32063

Since 1979 we have changed our production of daylilies to a year-round approach. We divide our daylilies during any month in the year, except when they are blooming. The demand for our daylilies has surpassed our quantity grown. We retain enough stock plants to redivide individually. Our plants are then cut back to half their matured height and spaced on 12-in. centers in the drill on 38-in. row spacing. We utilize this spacing because our farming equipment is set for 38-in. spacing — planters, cultivators, harvest equipment, and sprayers.

Weed control. After a block of daylilies is planted, I use a rolling cultivator to plow up a 3- to 4-in. wedge on the drill. I then apply the herbicide Lasso 4 EC (alachlor) over the entire bed and middle at the rate of 2 gal./A Lasso 4 EC (8 lbs. a.i./A), using 85 gal./A of water. In Florida, Monsanto recommends post-emergence application of this chemical because of our sandy soil composition. We repeat this spraying every 65 days. This controls our crabgrass problems throughout the growing season.

Cultivation. Herbicides do not control all weeds in our daylily blocks; therefore, we have resorted to a more practical way to eliminate the broadleaf weeds and grasses that our herbicides miss or do not suppress. Although it seems drastic, it works.

During the month of July we use a pasture mower. The mower is set to shave $\frac{1}{2}$ in. of the soil surface, leaving a bare surface with nothing but the daylily stubble at ground level. The area between the rows is mowed at approximate 3 in. We then use a hay rake, or finger rake, to rake the residue to the skip-middle. This residue we leave for 1 or 2 weeks. It is then burned in the field. After finger raking the field we utilize a rolling cultivator to rework the middle and plow $\frac{1}{2}$ in. of soil back over the top of our daylilies. We then apply Lasso 4 EC again at the rate of 8 lbs. a.i./A. This procedure has eliminated all of our costly hoe labor.