

## Finest daylilies

Our last winter was cold and unusually long. Perennial flowers were slow to emerge out of the ground—many never did. Perhaps this is why daylilies are having such a strong presence in landscapes this year.

Daylilies are among the toughest of all plants. We as North Dakotans show a special appreciation of this flower and boast the nation's largest collection, located at North Dakota State University.

When talking daylilies, the conversation begins with the introduction of 'Stella De Oro' in 1975. Daylilies had previously been respected for their toughness, but their bloom time was only about a month. 'Stella De Oro' changed everything—it bloomed all summer! The plant was embraced by all and appeared everywhere—from the International Peace Garden to gas stations.

Today there are THOUSANDS of daylilies to choose from. Which one is best for you? Ask the experts. Go



Fig. 1. North Dakota State University has the largest collection of daylilies in the USA. Over 1,200 varieties are on display.

to the leaders of the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS). Every year they provide awards to top performers. The Stout Silver Medal is the highest honor, given to only ONE variety per year.

I respect the AHS official judges, but also enjoy learning which varieties are preferred by gardeners. Members of AHS vote on their fa-

vorite varieties annually. Go to [www.daylilies.org](http://www.daylilies.org) and see the results by region. Several of the most popular selections in the north are shown below (Figs. 2–9).

You can judge for yourself by going to the NDSU gardens in Fargo. The gardens are open to the public and located at 12th Avenue North and 18th Street North.



**F2. Stella De Oro\***  
Revolutionized landscaping. Blooms all summer.



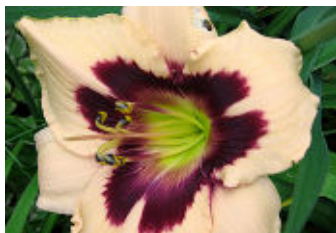
**F3. Primal Scream\***  
Bright tangerine orange. Much in demand.



**F4. Ruby Spider**  
Huge red blooms with golden throats. Extremely popular.



**F5. Webster's Pink Wonder**  
Soft pink, twisted petals. One of today's most popular varieties.



**F6. Moonlit Masquerade\***  
Cream-colored petals with a bright purple band.



**F7. All American Chief\***  
Tall plants filled with big red blooms. Prolific bloomer.



**F8. Fooled Me\***  
Radiant, long lasting blooms with red picotee edge.



**F9. Siloam Double Classic\***  
Ruffled blooms with sweet scent. Extended blooms.

Figs. 2–9. Popular daylilies in the Midwest. The asterisk after variety names indicates it is a winner of the Stout Silver Medal. This is the highest award of the American Hemerocallis Society and awarded to only one proven variety per year.

Written by Tom Kalb, Extension Horticulturist, North Dakota State University.

Sources: American Hemerocallis Society. 2014. [www.daylilies.com](http://www.daylilies.com). Awards and honors winners, Popularity poll results. Accessed 8/15/2014.

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