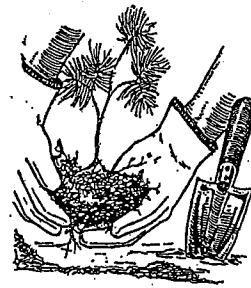


HOW TO CREATE A NATURAL GARDEN

By Terry O'Leary



PURPOSE: to design with nature by creating a natural setting that attracts wildlife, minimizes negative impacts, conserves energy, and creates beauty in your own yard.

SITE MAPPING: Start with your survey or plot plan and trace a scale drawing. Orient your map to the compass, and draw in a compass rose. Locate features of your home site such as: placement of the house, garage, shed, driveway and sidewalks; location of utility lines, air conditioners units, mail box, trash bins, etc. Sketch in windows and doors. Draw in existing trees and shrubs.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS: Use arrows to mark the direction of slope. Evaluate the soil conditions, including pH, aeration, and water retention qualities. All planter beds should have grass or stone removed, and may be amended with leaf mold, compost, and after planting, mulched. One benefit is that runoff and non-point source pollution will be reduced.

GARDEN DESIGN: First, make a list of all of the features that you wish to include, such as shade trees, privacy and wind screening, pathways, wildlife enhancements, seating areas, vegetable and herb gardens, decks or patios, arbors, fencing, hedgerows. Next, make a list of desired native plantings. Try to incorporate such elements of landscape design as size, scale, balance, color, flow, and texture. Try to plant in a flowing pattern, using odd numbers of similar species, and in triangular or zigzag patterns, rather than straight lines or symmetrical patterns. Remember: Planning before Planting!

ACCESS: All pathways and trails should be a minimum width of 4 feet, and should have a flaring entrance, an interesting destination, or be looping for quiet observation and circulation. You really can think grand, even on a small lot.

ATTRACTING WILDLIFE: To make a welcoming habitat for wildlife, consider installing a water feature, bird feeders, and nest boxes. Don't forget, placement and maintenance are necessary.

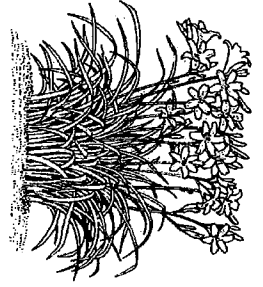
CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN: Select native plantings that are disease, insect and drought resistant. By amending and aerating the soil, and by installing the right plant in the right location, with plenty of room to grow, your maintenance and impact on the environment will be minimized. Occasional careful pruning of dead or broken branches, and infrequent watering should be all you will need to do to have a enjoyable wildlife-friendly Natural Garden.



NEW JERSEY FOREST SERVICE
Forest Resource Education Center



A gift to you from the Eastampton Environmental Commission



Day lily
(*Hemerocallis* hybrid)



Day lily
(*Hemerocallis* hybrid)



Day lily
(*Hemerocallis* hybrid)

Day lily (*Hemerocallis*)
Large, mostly single, funnel-shaped flowers, usually with broad petals and sepals, often fragrant. Blooms midspring to fall, according to variety. Handsome, narrow, sword-shaped evergreen or deciduous leaves curve gracefully. H 15 in.-4 ft.; S 2-4 ft.

Hundreds of hybrids with mixed parentage, in all colors except blue and pure white, and in many patterns. Select according to early, midseason, or late bloom, and height according to need. Evening bloomers open toward evening and stay open through following day or longer. Triploids have thick petals, are very weather resistant. The common lemon lily (*H. flava*) and the tawny orange day lily (*H. fulva*) are forerunners of the hybrids.

Grow in full sun or partial shade. Although minimal care is needed, plants have more blooms of superior quality if grown in soil in spring, and watered when actively growing in spring and summer. Mulch in summer to conserve moisture. Remove dead leaves in spring. Divide every 4-5 yr. for best bloom. Plant in spring, summer, or early fall. Evergreen less hardy than deciduous sorts.

Divide in midspring or late summer. Sow seeds in spring or late summer. Root leafy proliferations which often form on stems in late summer.

Increasing Your Stock by Dividing Perennials

Lifting Overgrown Plants From the Soil

An overgrown perennial is either one that has outgrown its allotted space in the garden or one that does not produce enough flowers and seed to justify its presence. For example, reach this state in a few years. Others, such as the herbaceous perennial, *Yucca*, seldom require 3 years.

Dividing Rhizomatous-Roasted Plants

Plants that grow from rhizomes are those that have a horizontal stem (which is really a swollen underground stem) grows at or just below the soil surface. Rhizomatous plants are divided in the same way as each plant can be separated into sev-

eral new ones. Ideally, this should be done in the early spring, just as the new growth buds begin to emerge. For the lifting, see page 2, carefully remove all the soil, so that the old rhizome can be seen, together with the new growth buds. It is important to see all the rhizomes, which it away with a stream of water.

are flexible, and division can often be done when it is most convenient if the plant is lifted in the fall. Since perennials remain in the same spot for many years, it pays to improve the soil prior to replanting. This may be done by adding a few inches of peat moss or superphosphate. Choose a day for lifting when the soil is neither frozen nor sticky. In summer or fall should be done well in advance of very cold weather, to allow roots to become established before the ground freezes.

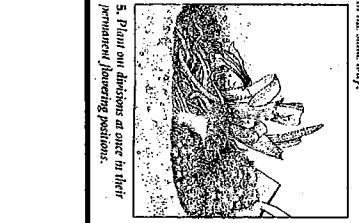
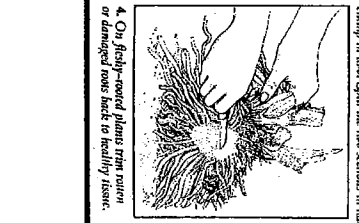
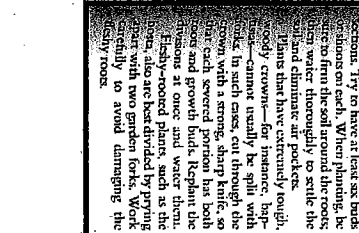
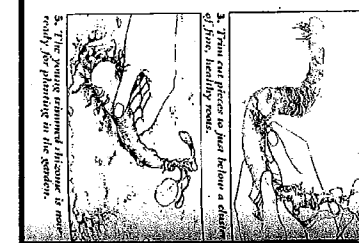
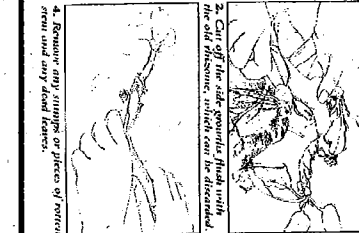
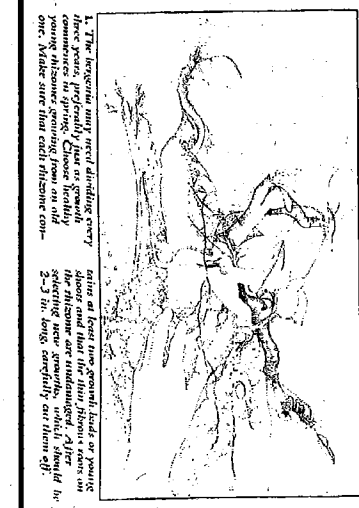
In separating the side growths from the old rhizome, cut the new divisions off with a sharp knife to prevent drying. Plant the young rhizomes at once. In planting, make sure that the rhizome is placed in the soil and are well anchored in the soil and are at about the same depth as the original plant. Rhizomes of bearded irises are an exception and are generally planted horizontally with the upper third of the rhizome above soil level. (See "Bearded Iris" planting page 10.)

Division of Old Fibrous and Fleshy-Roasted Perennials
Large, overgrown, fibrous-rooted plants, such as the helianthus and gladiolus, are sometimes difficult to divide, since both the crown and the roots form a solid mass. After lifting the clump, force the prongs of two garden forks, back to back, into the center of the clump and pry apart as shown at right.

After marking the major divisions, use a sharp knife to cut away the roots. Under perennials, expose the roots. Try to have at least six buds on each. When planting, be sure to firm the soil around the roots; use water thoroughly to settle the soil and eliminate air pockets. Plants that have extremely tough, woody crowns—for instance, hollyhock—cannot usually be split with a sharp knife. In such cases, cut through the crown with a strong, sharp knife, so that each severed portion has both roots and crown.

Fleshy-rooted plants, such as the gladiolus, also are best divided by prying apart with two garden forks. Work carefully to avoid damaging the roots.

Grow in full sun or partial shade. Although minimal care is needed, plants have more blooms of superior quality if grown in soil in spring, and watered when actively growing in spring and summer. Mulch in summer to conserve moisture. Remove dead leaves in spring. Divide every 4-5 yr. for best bloom. Plant in spring, summer, or early fall. Evergreen less hardy than deciduous sorts.



1. The large, overgrown perennial is lifted from the soil.
2. The plant is separated into two main sections.
3. The sections are further divided into smaller pieces.
4. A clump of a plant with a solid mass of roots and crown is pruned with two garden forks.
5. The plant is separated into two sections, showing the roots and crowns.
6. A clump of a plant with a solid mass of roots and crown is pruned with two garden forks.
7. The plant is separated into two sections, showing the roots and crowns.