

PROBLEMSOLVER

LANDSCAPE TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS » BY H. BRUCE HELLERICK

PROBLEM

Many landscapes have vast daylily plantings, which are spectacular when in bloom. But after the daylilies have finished blooming their dead flower stems and yellowing foliage detract from the landscape's image. What would you do to improve the appearance of these beds?



Every day you see horticultural problems. Sometimes the solution is obvious, but others are much more difficult to solve. Brickman Group Senior Horticulture Specialist H. Bruce Hellerick tackles these issues each month in Problem Solver. He can be reached at Hellerick@BrickmanGroup.com.



SOLUTION

Some contractors prune or pull out the individual spent flower stalks and remove the dead foliage, but this is too time consuming. With this method, you need to return on a weekly basis to continually remove other dead foliage and frankly, I've got more important things to do.

The most effective and efficient way to detail these daylily beds is just as the daylilies have finished their bloom cycle prune the whole plant 3- to 6-in. from the ground. With this process you remove all the dead stems and plant material at one time creating tidy green mounds. The process works particularly well with the early flowering, re-blooming types of daylilies like Stella d'oro, Happy Returns and Pardon Me, which will quickly flush out with new clean foliage and new blossoms for the remainder of the season.

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