

Hemerocallis Continued

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I wrote in last summer's Newsletter that I intended to lift all our clumps of Hemerocallis to improve the soil to a depth of 2 feet, in order to rejuvenate the plants as recommended by the experts. At the end of September, after we'd had some decent rain I set about my task.

Firstly I hadn't realised quite how many Hemerocallis we have in the garden - 39 at the last count – so I was never going to be able to lift them all in one season. Secondly, I underestimated the time it would take to dig up each clump and then excavate a very large hole, incorporate some grit and our homemade compost, and then re-plant. It was exhausting work and each clump took about three hours of back breaking digging. After I had done about ten clumps I gave up as I wasn't even sure that what I was doing was going to make a difference.

This summer the Hemerocallis which I hadn't lifted produced the best and most numerous flowers I have ever seen. My rejuvenated clumps have looked healthier but are still settling down so didn't flower too well. On visiting other gardens I noticed that everyone's Hemerocallis were performing exceptionally well this year. I don't know what weather conditions we had this year that the plants liked so much – if anyone knows perhaps you could spread the word.