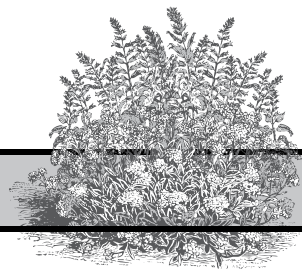


QUICK GUIDE:

Perennial Gardening Basics



Getting Started

Perennials make a great addition to any garden bed or border. Most perennials live 3-5 years or more. Peonies and poppies can live for 75 years! For a beautiful stand of perennials you can enjoy for years to come, we recommend first preparing the garden space. Just follow the easy steps outlined below.

SOIL

Begin with fluffy and loose soil, so water, air, and nutrients can filter down easily, and roots have room to stretch. The addition of compost is ideal (See our

Composting Essentials Care Sheet).

If compost isn't available, make your

own mix with equal parts of:

- Existing soil
- Soil conditioner (very fine pine bark, etc.)
- Mushroom compost or composted cow manure



Hellebore

FERTILIZERS

Bone meal and blood meal together make a good fertilizer combination. Bone meal supplies phosphorus, and blood meal supplies nitrogen. Apply bone meal at 10 lbs. per 100sf (10'x10'); blood meal at 2 lbs. per 100sf. Plantone™ fertilizer can also be used at the rate of 2 lbs. per 100sf. These organic fertilizers will stay in the soil for 3-4 months. After preparing raised bed or border, rake in fertilizer then water well.



Ajuga

STEPS TO Perennial SUCCESS

RAISED BEDS

Raising your beds and borders can be beneficial in many ways. First, it provides good drainage so plants receive adequate water, while avoiding the wet conditions that can promote root rot. Secondly, a raised bed allows all its plants to receive maximum sunlight. Thirdly, the roots in the prepared bed will continuously receive the maximum benefits of drainage, fertilizer, and nutrients. Lastly, a raised bed will make a nice presentation

for your new perennial garden, with its center achieving a good height and depth.

PLANTING

For container-grown perennials, quarter the side and bottom with a garden spade, and flatten in a radial fashion. For bare root and/or fibrous rooted perennials, radially lay roots out on top of a mound of dirt in the middle of the planting hole.

WATERING

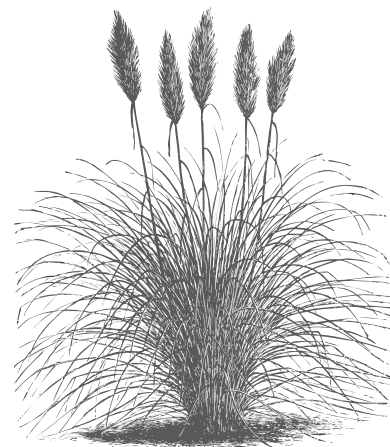
- Water thoroughly and deeply; the top 5-6" should be moist.
- Use a hose or irrigation instead of a sprinkler (water soil, not foliage).
- Water in the morning, before the sun hits directly. Evening watering encourages mildew and root rot.

MULCHING

2-3" of mulch can reduce weeding, conserve water, stop runoff, add nutrients, and regulate soil temperature.

Many mulch types are available. Pine bark, and shaved wood are a few of the most popular. More exotic choices include cedar and cocoa shells.

(continued)



Pampas Grass



NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

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STEPS TO PERENNIAL SUCCESS *(continued)*

PINCHING, DISBUDDING & DEADHEADING

For bushy perennials with more flowers, pinch the growing tips of each stem. To disbud perennials (i.e. dahlias) for fewer but larger blooms, pinch out side buds, leaving on the central or highest bud in each cluster.

Flowers usually fade after pollination. Leaving them on the plant encourages seed formation, and robs the plant of vigor since it takes a great deal of energy to mature seed. Deadheading helps direct the plant's energy to flower, leaf, and root production. For invasive



Peony



Delphinium

perennials, removing spent flowers (and potential seeds) prevents self-sowing throughout your garden.

Deadheading often extends the bloom season, causing a plant to continue flowering, in order to set seed.

DIVIDING PLANTS

Perennials will continue to expand each year, and can lose vigor when they become overcrowded.

Consequently, most will benefit from being dug up and divided periodically. Once the center of a clump has begun to wither and die out, leaving new growth at the edges, the plant should be divided. Dividing also helps prevent mildew growth. Lift the plant in either spring or fall (fall is best) with a spading fork or shovel. With your hands or a sharp knife, carefully break the clump into fairly substantial plantlets. Some

Heuchera



Hosta

plants can be easily divided by hand, but others receive less root damage when cut with a knife. Do as little damage to the overall root mass as possible. Resettle the new plants into the ground. If you have too many plants, you can always share with friends and neighbors!

CHOOSING

Perennials

WISELY

When planting perennials, take care to choose the right the spot for each type of plant. Check sunlight, soil, and water requirements, as well as bloom time. Also consider mature plant height - position taller plants behind lower varieties. To control any invasive perennial, plant it in a pot first, then place the potted plant in the ground in your bed or border.

Don't be afraid to mix things up a bit!

Annuals included in your garden will prolong color and interest. Evergreens will provide year-round color. Ornamental trees and shrubs add height and depth. Planting a themed garden, such as herb, pollinator, or color-specific (blue, for example), can help narrow your focus and make choosing plants easier.