

PERENNIAL PLANTING & CARE GUIDE

Perennial Planting & Care Guide

1. Amend the soil
 - a. Tilling existing soil will make it easier to dig your holes and allow for better aeration around the root system after your perennial has been planted
 - b. Mix in compost, enhanced topsoil, soil conditioner, or potting soil for extra nutrients
2. Place perennials (still in pots) in the bed and arrange them how you would like them to be displayed after planting
3. Dig a hole about as deep as the pot, and twice the size of the pot's width
 - a. Remember to call Diggers Hotline before you dig holes in your yard
<https://www.diggershotline.com/> (800) 242-8511
4. Break up the root system with your hands to encourage the roots to grow out and down, not in a circle
 - a. It is important not to bury too deep or too tightly; be gentle while packing the soil around the plant
 - b. Make sure all roots are covered with soil
5. Cover the base with a layer of mulch to encourage water retention
6. Water in the perennial
7. Save the tag from each plant and keep a notebook where you write down exactly where you planted it, the year, and any other information you want to remember. This makes a great plant record for your home.

Watering

1. Only water the base of the plants; water as close to the soil/root system as possible
 - a. Overhead watering may cause the blooms and/or foliage to rot, become sunburnt, and may block the water from reaching the root system altogether
2. Water everyday (depending on plant variety and weather conditions)- give each plant an extra amount especially during the hottest days of the season
3. You can hand-water with a hose or watering can, however, with larger beds, it is more efficient to purchase a soaker hose and run it for 20 minutes a day (weather depending)

Fertilizing

1. Depending on the fertilizer variety, it is good to fertilize plants once a month
2. Never fertilize more than what is recommended on the fertilizer packaging
 - a. If the plants are over-fertilized, it can cause them to die

Pruning

1. Most perennials will need to be dead-headed or pruned after the blooms are spent
2. Pruning the spent bloom is done nearest to the base of the plant

Winter Preparation

1. It is best to plant perennials before the end of September
2. Most perennials can be pruned 2-3" from the ground early to mid-autumn
3. Always refer to the guidelines on the plant tag for best practices
4. Cover plants with mulch or leaves for extra insulation

