



Bucks Country Gardens

Perennial Gardening Secrets to a Perennial Success

BUY POTTED PLANTS:

We sell perennials in containers of various sizes. To ensure the first season success, purchase the bigger sized plants.

KNOW YOUR SITE:

If your garden gets six or more hours of sun each day, select sun-loving perennials. Less than six hours, shade dwellers will be better suited.

SHAPE UP SOIL:

By spading it to a depth of 8 inches. To improve fertility and drainage, mix in nutrient-rich organic matter, such as compost or manure.

PLAN THE GARDEN:

On paper, then place the potted plants where you want them to grow. Shift them around until you arrive at the look you like.

PLANT THE PERENNIALS:

At the same depth they grew in pots. Water once or twice weekly for the first few months to help to get them established. To thwart weeds, mulch plants with leaves of dried grass, clippings or commercial mulch found at our garden center.

COMBINE FOR COMPATIBILITY

For a marriage of blissful blooms, mix flowers that tie, not vie, for affection. The heady blooms of phlox flatter the feathery plumes of astilbe.

MIX TINY SPECIES:

Amass little flowers like john-jump-up, moss phlox, and brunnera in the front of a perennial border so they can show off their true colors without getting bullied by bigger blooms.

OVERLAP FLOWERING SEASON:

You can rely on a few of the summer-blooming perennials to march right into the autumn garden. Lythrum lingers right after its summer performance to welcome late-arriving asters and other fall flowers.

MINGLE TALL BLOOMS:

For stately blooms in the back of a border, imagine members of the regal family of tall perennials like hardy lily, Lythrum and delphinium.

DESIGN DRIFTS OF COLOR:

For informal drifts of colorful blooms, plant perennials in clumps containing at least three plants of each species you choose (such as lily's ears, and coreopsis).

PICK COOL PASTELS:

Soft, soothing shades of pink of the blossoms of favorite old-fashioned flowers such as yarrow, phlox, and Lythrum, take the edge off steamy summer heat.

COUNT ON CHRYSANTHEMUMS:

Assemble an assortment of sunny chrysanthemums for non-stop color even up to the first frost.

BALANCE BOLD WITH DAINY:

An old coupling of two perennials with opposite bloom types will attract equal attention to both. The dainty flowers balance with the bold blossoms.

STAGGER HEIGHTS FOR LAYERS OF BLOOM:

Arranging perennials in order of their relative flower heights displays each blossom to its best advantage. Plax, yarrow, and hollyhock bloom in a layered stair-step fashion

BLEND BULBS WITH WILDFLOWERS:

To imitate the carefree look of a meadow naturalize clumps of blooming bulbs and wildflowers, such as miniature daffodils and wild sweet William.