



CARING FOR YOUR PERENNIALS

To get your plants off to a good start, we have prepared a list of suggested practices to keep your flowers happy, blooming, and healthy.

WATERING:

Many perennials die due to improper watering practices, either too much or too little water. Be certain to water deeply, checking the soil to see that the water has penetrated thoroughly. Generally most plants benefit from about 1” of water a week during the summer season. For the first month after planting, check the soil every other day, watering the soil thoroughly if necessary. Avoid wetting the leaves. In addition, it’s best to water first thing in the morning so the plants enjoy the benefit of moisture for the entire day.

FERTILIZING:

Your soil was well amended at planting time, but a fertilizer application is advised for early spring of next year. We recommend a balanced organic, slow-release plant fertilizer such as Espoma Flower-tone. Poor soils, or abnormally wet springs may necessitate additional fertilizing in summer months. We do not recommend fertilizing heavily after late July, as plants may grow excessively in the fall, preventing proper ‘hardening-off’ in preparation for the colder winter months. Follow label directions on packaging for proper application rates.

STAKING:

Most tall growing perennials require some kind of support. It is best to begin staking early in the season and continue the process as they grow. After plants have fallen over, it is extremely difficult to stake and have them look natural. A wide variety of staking supplies are available to through our retail shop.

DEADHEADING:

Removing spent flowers may satisfy your esthetic sense, but more importantly it re-directs the energy that a plant might use for seed formation into creating a healthier, stronger plant with additional blooms

FALL/WINTER CARE:

Most perennials will continue growing until heavy frosts. When plants become dormant after repeated frosts, the tops that remain may be cut back to about 3” from the ground. Evergreen plants should be trimmed less severely. Once the ground has completely frozen and temperatures remain in the 20’s or lower, a light protective covering is helpful, especially the first winter after planting. (This covering will help prevent plants from rapid changes in temperature during sunny days.) Clean up any remaining debris and cover plants lightly with either straw or evergreen branches.

In early spring, gradually remove the protective covering from around the plants. Carefully work a light dose of fertilizer such as Espoma Flower-tone into the soil between the plants. Amending the soil with an organic matter such as MooDoo or homemade compost is also a good idea for a new year of healthy growth.

Following these simple procedures will help keep your gardens in top condition for years of continual enjoyment. Please feel free to call us with any questions. 802-325-3007. Thanks for choosing Mettowee Mill Garden Center & Landscaping for your landscaping and gardening needs.