

# PERENNIALS

## BED PREPARATION FOR PERENNIALS-DO NOT SHORT CUT IN THIS AREA

- \*Weed bed thoroughly-get rid of perennial weeds
- \*Add sufficient organic matter to soil for nutrients, good aeration and drainage
- \*Well drained so water does not sit in the bed
- \*Fertilize as needed

## PLAN FOR SPECIFIC SITE CONDITIONS

- \*Shade
- \*Sun
- \*Moist and Wet sites
- \*Hot and Dry site

## PLACEMENT OF PLANTS FOR THEIR HEIGHT

- \*Plan for tall perennials
- \*Plan for ground covers
- \*Plan for shorter plants

## PLAN FOR YEAR ROUND COLOR

- \*Plants have color by the month- some longer than others
- \*Spring, summer, fall and winter blooming periods
- \*Some perennials are evergreen
- \*Most perennials are not

## CARING FOR YOUR PERENNIALS DURING THE GROWING SEASON

- \*Keep beds weeded
- \*Mulch
- \*Water as needed-Do not over water
- \*Dead- heading flowers will help in reproduction of other flowers

## WINTER CARE

- \*Trim dormant plants 2"- 3" above the crown of the plant. New buds for next year's Growth is at or above the crown.
- \*Cut back foliage of plants if there was a plant disease on its leaves. (Mold, etc.)
- \*Keep foliage thru out the winter for
  1. Birds to hide in or warmth from winter
  2. Insulation for the crown of plants
  3. Seed heads are food resources for birds
- \*Cut back foliage if you can't stand the sight of the brown dormant plants
- \*Keep the foliage if you like the texture of the winter look blended with the snow

## WHY I LOVE PERENNIALS

- \*Plants come back new every year
- \*Bigger and stronger each year
- \*Can plan for color all year round
- \*Attract butterflies, Hummingbirds, bees, dragonflies and neighbors
- \*Can share divisions with family and friends
- \*Can sell divisions at Garden Tours for neighborhood enhancements
- \*They surprise you where they are planted
- \*Their flowers make you smile

## WHY I HATE PERENNIALS

- \*I choose a variety that spreads like crazy and I spend the next several years weeding it Out of the lawn, or where I did not plant it.
- \*The variety I really like, spread by seed (butter and eggs, lamb's ear, red salvia)
- \*A variety I really like, spread by root system and I have to eliminate the entire plant for The sake of sanity. (Blue-Black Salvia, Summer Phlox, Umbrella plant)
- \*The best color producers are also the most aggressive plants- (Wisteria, and Trumpet Vine) that take over the entire yard, as well as all your neighbors yard and even the Surrounding States-Kut zoo.

## WHY PERENNIALS ARE NOT LOW MAINTENANCE

- \*Eventually, I will have to divide my perennials

## SIGNS THAT PERENNIALS NEED DIVIDING

- \*Flowering is reduced and the flowers get smaller
- \*Growth in the center of the plant dies out, leaving a hole with all the growth around the Edges
- \*Plant loses vigor
- \*Plants starts to flop
- \*Plant out -grows its space

## PERENNIAL DIVISION

- \*Best done in spring
- \*Fleshy rooted perennials such as poppy, peony and iris are best divided in late summer to early fall.
- \*Keep divisions moist and shaded until planted
- \*Realize the division may not bloom in its first year.