

The Country Basket Garden Center

Perennials Section

Perennials come up and perform year after year in your garden.

Combine Perennials with annual flowers, shrubs, and trees to create a beautiful landscape that will be the envy of the neighborhood.

We make it easy for you to succeed! Our staff is always available to mentor you to choose the right plants for the right spot. Take advantage of our expert tips so that your flowers will flourish.

Six Steps to Beautiful Perennial Beds:

1

Prepare your beds for great root growth.

Most perennials love soft well-drained soils. To turn even the worst dirt into “Super Soil”, add organic matter.

2

Select Well

Sun-loving plants generally do poorly in shade, and shade-loving plants scorch in the sun. Our staff is always there to help you out if you want. Most perennials have a set bloom time each year that does not encompass all the seasons. Be sure to include Spring bloomers, Summer color, and Fall flowers in pleasing combinations. It also is perfectly legal to mix some annual flowers (which tend to bloom over a longer period of time) with your perennials to extend color. We have signage and labels that help you with your decisions.

3

Repeat after me-Sit down in the front.

You usually need several heights of perennials to give your bed a three dimensional look. Also do not put aggressive growing flowers next to dainty ones that need pampering. We will help you out in choosing plants that are good neighbors. What really gives a perennial bed a beautiful look, is to repeat the plant groupings you use several times in a bed.

4

Plant with Love

Plant odd numbers of plants of the same kind together (3, 5, 7, etc.). Planting “onesies” together often looks jumbled. When you plant, dip the plant roots into a rooting hormone that will stimulate new roots and get the plant off to a fast start. Feed the roots with high phosphate fertilizer that is mixed into the soil that causes the plant to establish quickly. Water thoroughly when you first

plant.



Clean your house

Keep the weeds from getting a good start. It is much easier to remove them when they are small. Mulching your beds with 2 or 3 inches of bark mulch such as hardwood or pine will keep out 90% of the weeds. Remove dead blossoms when you are in your beds looking for weeds. This will extend the flowering time for many perennials as well as keep a tidy look. Water only as needed. Lots of sprinkler watering on the leaves promotes disease and rotting in the plants. For more plentiful flowers water your plants with our “Liquid Fertilizer” every couple of weeks.



Multiply by Dividing

In the crazy math of perennials, you can split up the mature root masses and gain more starts to plant somewhere else or give to your friends. Perennials are not all the same, so ask us at the garden center when the time to divide is right and the best way to go about it.

Did you know?

Perennials are great for containers, too. They add structure and form with interesting foliage colors and shapes along with beautiful flowers. Let your imagination go wild. We will guide you to the best ones for pots.

Grasses are Great:

Grasses give you great texture, form, color, and motion in the wind. They make a wonderful background for flowers and are outstanding for dramatic groupings in difficult, sunny areas. Birds love grasses for nesting and eating the seeds. Practically the only care they need is cutting them down once a year in late winter.

Ground Covers:

Ground covers are wonderful landscape problem solvers and beautifiers. There are Ground covers to suit just about any type of soil: sandy, clay, alkaline, acidic, moist or dry. From full sun lovers to full shade, and anything in between, there is a ground cover that will fit the bill. Once established, ground covers are great for reducing erosion and suppressing weed growth. Also, if you’ve got a hard to mow area, ground covers might be the right plant for you!

Ground covers give your landscape harmony. They provide a feeling of tranquility, serving as a transition between lawn areas and flowerbeds. Ground covers also create variety in depth and texture and often highlight other landscape elements. They can be attractive accents on their own, as well.

With a little imagination, ground covers can do more than just cover the ground. Choose varieties of *Stepables* for areas that receive foot traffic. *Stepables* are labeled to the amount of foot traffic they can tolerate, from light to heavy. *Nooks & Crannies* ground covers add style and flair to the garden with their tiny foliage filling small spaces and special places.