



FALL PERENNIALS

When done correctly, fall is a good time for planting perennials. You may gain a year worth of growth and have a much bigger plant by next spring versus planting a new perennial the following spring.

PLANTING

A perennial planted in late August or September has time to set roots into the ground before winter and freezing temperatures arrive. Planting properly is very important to be successful. Here is how to do it:

Prepare the area your planting by working good compost into our native clay soils. Compost will add organic material, beneficial microorganisms, and aeration to the native soil. This is important for growing healthy plants.

Plant your new perennials in the prepared soil at the same depth as they are in the pot they came in. Lightly pack the soil around the roots as you add soil back to the hole. Over packing the soil increases soil compaction and restricts air flow to the plants roots.

WATERING

Proper watering is also very important. Water as needed to keep soil moist, but not saturated throughout the fall. During the winter months, if there is no rain or snow for two weeks or longer, lightly water the area to keep soil moist. Dry soil in winter is not healthy for plants and greatly decreases their potential for survival! To help conserve water for your plants and to stabilize soil temperature, apply mulch 2"-3" deep around all your perennial plants in late fall. Stabilized soil temperature provided by proper mulching, and along with proper watering, greatly increases the potential of the plant survive the winter months.

FERTILIZING

After plants have emerged in the spring, you may begin fertilizing to make them stronger, bigger, healthier and bloom to their fullest potential and to provide you with the heart warming satisfaction you deserve for all your hard work!

ROOT STIMULATOR

It is very important apply a root stimulator, according to directions, the day you plant your perennials. This will help your perennials establish good roots before winter. Perennials that are well rooted in the native soil are less likely to heave during the freeze and thaw cycles of winter. With proper care, the plants roots will continue to grow until the soil is frozen!

FALL VS. SPRING PLANTING

Perennials planted in late summer or early fall, grown and cared for correctly will give you a bigger healthier plant than one planted the following spring. Take the opportunity to have a nice robust perennial garden next year by planting this fall!

HARDY PERENNIALS

Some perennials we recommend that can be planted in the fall with a high rate of success and be robust next year versus a spring planted perennial are: Hostas, Iris, Peonies, Sedum, Salvia (Meadow Sage), Hemerocallis (Day lily), Perovskia (Russian Sage), Veronica (Speed Well), and Achillea (Yarrow), and Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susan).

