



BRECK'S[®]
PLANTING
HANDBOOK

*How to Bring the Magic of Holland
to Your Garden*



BRECK'S®

Bulbs direct to you from Holland since 1818

Dear Breck's Gardener:

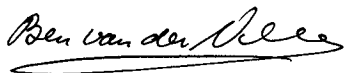
Thank you for ordering your bulbs and plants from Breck's. Here at our headquarters in the centre of Holland's bulb-growing region, we have selected only the very finest bulbs and plants for shipment to you. Your order has been carefully packed, and every possible effort has been made to see that your bulbs and plants reach you safely at the proper planting time for your area.

However, before you place your bulbs and plants in the garden, I suggest you read this special Breck's Planting Handbook. While planting and caring for top-quality bulbs and plants is relatively simple, we have included a number of suggestions to help you achieve maximum beauty.

You may find slight differences between the planting information in this handbook and that found in a Breck's catalogue or on the bag in which your bulbs and plants were shipped. In such cases, I recommend that you follow the instructions printed on the bag, since these instructions cover the specific variety you have received.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to send Breck's bulbs and plants for your garden. I hope their beauty will bring great pleasure to you, your friends and your neighbours.

Faithfully,



Ben van der Veldt
Directeur, Breck Holland B.V.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

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BULB AND PERENNIAL PLANTING TIPS FROM HOLLAND'S EXPERTS

How to Create a Beautiful Dutch Summer Garden

ON ARRIVAL

Your bulbs and most of your perennials have been shipped to you in their natural dormant stage. Do not be alarmed if your plants appear to be dead or void of green leaves or sprouts. Almost all bulbs and perennials die back to the ground in autumn and early winter. Bulbs and plants are more easily transported in a dormant state than when they are actively growing.

All bulbs and perennials should be planted in your garden as soon as possible to ensure the best success. If you must delay planting, open the bags to permit air circulation and place them out of direct sunlight in a cool (45–55°F [7–13°C]), well-ventilated room. Do not place the bulbs where they can freeze. If you have the space, storing the bulbs in the refrigerator is another excellent way to “hold them” prior to planting. If you choose this method, be sure to keep them away from any fresh fruit. The ethylene gas given off by ripening fruit can be damaging to bulbs.

Growing masses of beautiful summer flowers is simple when you start with top-quality Dutch bulbs and perennials.

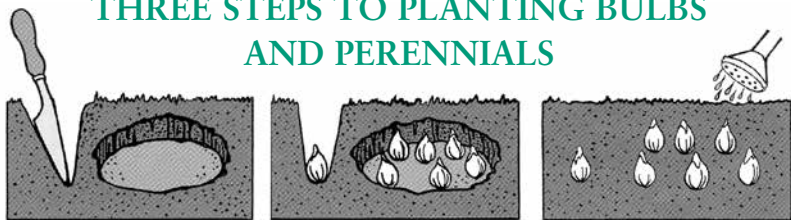
With just a minimum amount of effort, you can have the same beauty found in the finest gardens of Europe.

SOIL

Summer-blooming Dutch bulbs are not too fussy about soil—provided it is not too heavy and sticky. If the soil is heavy, loosen it with a generous amount of humus, sand, gypsum, etc. If very light, add moisture holders like humus and leaf mold. Bulbs and perennials need plenty of water and good drainage. If water tends to stand in the planting area, you'll want to break up hard subsoil by putting in a layer of drainage material such as sand, coarse gravel, broken stone or sifted cinders below your surface soil.

Some perennials and bulbs have specific needs when it comes to the acidity, or pH level, of the soil. Soil acidity is measured on a scale of 1 to 14. Everything below 7 is considered acidic and everything above is considered alkaline. Most garden plants thrive at a pH level between 6 and 7.5. This range is optimal for most plants because it indicates the phosphorus in the soil is soluble—meaning that it dissolves in water—and can be taken up by plant

THREE STEPS TO PLANTING BULBS AND PERENNIALS



1. Dig a hole or bed to proper depth for the type of plant being planted and loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole or bed.

2. Place plant roots or bulbs (generally pointed tips up) at the bottom of hole. Be sure there are no pockets to hold water.

3. Cover with loose soil and pack well. Then give a good initial watering. That's all. Now Mother Nature takes over.

roots.

It is good to know the pH level of your soil. There are a few methods you can use to test your soil's acidity. The first is to send a soil sample to your local cooperative extension office and have it analyzed there. You can also purchase do-it-yourself soil pH testing kits at most nurseries and garden centres.

If you want to raise the pH level, you can add garden lime. If you want to gradually lower it, you can add organic matter like compost, an acidic mulch (e.g., pine needle mulch) or peat. For rapid pH lowering, use one of the acidic soil additives available at your local garden supply store. Aluminum sulfate is one of the quickest-acting options available. In general terms, expect to use about 1.2 lbs of aluminum sulfate to lower the pH of a 10 sq ft patch of soil by one on the pH scale.

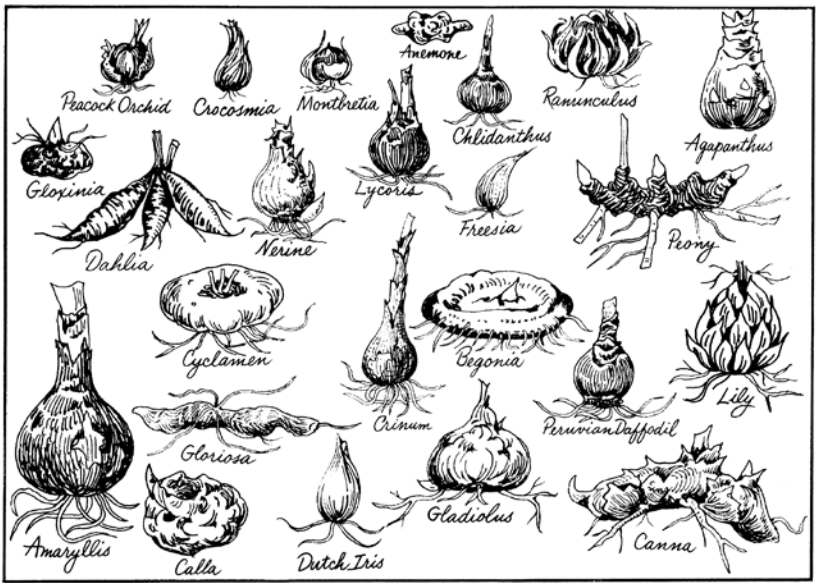
PLANTING

Your bulbs should be planted as soon as possible after arriving from Holland in the spring. However, if there is danger

of severe frosts yet to come, store your bulbs in a cool, well-ventilated location for delayed planting. Your dormant perennial roots may be kept in their original bags at about 40°F (5°C) (the vegetable drawer of a refrigerator is ideal) for up to three weeks. Don't worry if the roots appear to be dead when they arrive. They are just dormant and will spring to life after you plant them.

On pages 26–31 you will find a detailed chart showing recommended planting depths and spacing distances. Planting depth is measured from the surface of the soil to the shoulder of a bulb (where the bulb begins to narrow) or the top of a perennial. Distance between plants is measured from the centre of one plant to the centre of the next.

While each plant is a complete "plant factory" with built-in nourishment, it is a good idea to mix a quantity of Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials with the loose soil at the bottom of your planting. This will provide additional food without any danger of "burning." Never apply fresh or half-rotted manure directly on bulbs and perennials.



KNOW YOUR BULBS

The Dutch bulb is one of the wonders of nature—a complete “package” which includes not only an embryonic plant but also its own nourishment for the months it will spend

creating beautiful floral displays. While sizes vary, the guide above will help you recognize some of the basic types of bulbs for summer flowering.

There are two basic methods of planting:

1. Dig individual holes for each plant or bulb. This can be done with a garden trowel or with a special hole-cutting tool called a bulb planter.
2. If you are planting several plants or bulbs in a single area, you may want to dig an entire bed to planting depth. Then you can place all the plants at once and fill dirt in around them.

Planting flower bulbs and tubers step by step:

1. Spade or rototill the soil to a depth of 12–15" (30–40 cm).

2. Thoroughly mix in a generous 2" (5 cm) layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost and Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials.
3. Firm the soil a bit.
4. Place the bulbs at the proper depth (see detailed chart on pages 26–30).
5. Work soil in and around bulb/tuber, firming it with your fingers.
6. Water thoroughly after planting.

Planting bareroot perennials step by step:

1. Remove the roots from the package and soak them in cold to lukewarm water for 30 minutes.

2. Spade or rototill the soil to a depth of 12–15" (30–40 cm).
3. Thoroughly mix in a generous 2" (5 cm) layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost and Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials.
4. Firm the soil a bit.
5. Make a hole large enough to place the root so the top of the plant is in the proper position (see detailed chart on pages 26–30). Spread roots over the surface of the soil at the bottom of the hole.
6. Carefully fill around and between the roots and cover the crown/eyes with a maximum of 0.5" (1–2 cm) of soil. Press to make sure each plant is firmly set and all air pockets have been eliminated.
7. Water thoroughly after planting.

Planting potted perennials step by step:

1. Before planting, place pots in approximately 0.5" (1–2 cm) of cold to lukewarm water for 30 minutes. Do not remove plants from pot.
2. Spade or rototill soil to a depth of 12–15" (30–40 cm).
3. Thoroughly mix in a generous 2" (5 cm) layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost and Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials.
4. Firm the soil a bit.
5. Make a hole slightly larger than the pot.
6. Carefully remove the plant from the pot. Score vertical marks on all four sides of the root ball to encourage roots to grow outside the

surrounding soil.

7. Hold the root ball level with the soil surface and carefully fill in around the root ball. Firm soil around the plant to remove air pockets.
8. Water thoroughly after planting.

SUMMER CARE

Dutch bulbs and perennials require only a minimum of care during summer blooming periods. Like all garden plants, they appreciate a weed-free growing area and watering when nature does not supply enough rain to keep the soil moist. However, moist soil doesn't mean wet soil—do not let water stand around your bulbs.

It generally is not necessary to apply fertilizer while your summer bulbs are growing and blooming. However, sometimes you can increase blooming by adding dehydrated manure or another plant fertilizer. Be careful not to let any fertilizer touch the foliage.

CUT FLOWERS

Most varieties, as indicated in the chart on pages 26–30, are excellent for cut flowers. When cutting blooms for bouquets, never cut more foliage than necessary, because it nourishes bulbs for the following year's growth. Stems without leaves can be cut to within an inch of ground level.

The best time for cutting is when buds are just starting to open. Bulbs with many flowers per stem—like lilies and glads—are best cut when the first few buds open. The other buds will open while the stems are in water. Cutting should be done in early morning or late evening. Always cut the flowers—do not just pull them up or break off the stems.

Cut flowers should immediately be placed in clean, lukewarm water. Let them soak in a cool, dark place for at least six hours before arranging. To prolong bouquet life, add a bit of lemon-lime soda to the water

and place your arrangements in a cool place each night. If you rearrange your flowers, it's best to cut off a bit of their stems to help them take up additional moisture.

CARING FOR YOUR DUTCH BULBS AND PERENNIALS

How to Lift and Protect Bulbs for Winter Storage and Replanting

Remove ripened foliage from bulbs before storing.



Bulbs stored in trays should be kept in a cool, well-ventilated area.



Old nylon stockings are ideal for storing bulbs.

Most Dutch bulbs and perennials require only a minimum amount of care to provide annual summer beauty. As the chart on pages 26–31 indicates, some varieties are hardy enough to leave in the ground from one year to the next, and others require fall lifting for storage over the winter.

PROTECTING HARDY BULBS AND PERENNIALS

It is a good idea to give your hardy bulbs and perennials some winter protection if temperatures will fall below freezing. Bulbs and plants without protection may even work themselves up out of the ground after periods of freezing and thawing.

There are many good winter “overcoats” for your bulbs, including leaves, evergreen boughs, straw, wood chips, compost and ground corncocks.

LIFTING TENDER BULBS

Less hardy bulbs should be lifted each autumn. As soon as frost has blackened foliage, gently spade up the bulbs, being careful not to cut into the bulbs and damage them.

If you prefer to lift the bulbs before frost has hit, you can dig your bulbs early and store them in a well-ventilated, frost-free area until the bulbs and leaves are dry.

Most bulbs should be dried for about a week before you prepare them for storage. Then pull loose any remaining foliage, shake the bulbs gently to remove any clinging soil, and dust them with fungicide powder to prevent rot. Place them in unsealed paper bags or old nylon stockings with some dry peat moss to keep the bulbs from touching one another.

Dahlias should be dried for only a couple of hours before storing in plastic-lined shallow boxes with a blanket of vermiculite or peat moss.

Begonias should be given a bath just as soon as they are lifted and then stored in shallow, open trays. Cover trays with fine mesh wire to protect against rodents.

Summer-blooming bulbs require a relatively low temperature for winter storage, between 45–60°F (7–16°C). (Dahlias require an even lower temperature; if it gets above 45°F (7°C), they may sprout prematurely.)

Most modern basements are not cool enough for winter bulb storage. Often an unheated garage is a good alternative—just make sure that your bulbs will not freeze. If you have space in the vegetable compartment of a refrigerator, it is ideal

for bulb storage, as long as fruit is not stored in the same compartment.

DIVIDING PERENNIALS

Perennials will grow bigger each year. You can divide your plants for even more beauty around your home. Dividing will also help to maintain their health and vigour. Every 3–4 years, in the fall or as growth is beginning in the spring, plants can be lifted and divided into clumps of 3–5 shoots. Spring-flowering plants, such as irises, are best divided between July and August after flowering, when they produce new roots. When you have very large clumps, use only their outer, active parts. Replant the divisions immediately.

BAREROOT PERENNIALS

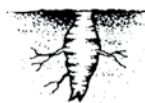
There are five basic types of root systems: fibrous roots, long taproots, rhizomes, roots with “eyes” and fleshy tuberous roots. Before planting, bareroot perennials should be soaked in water for 30 minutes.



FIBROUS ROOTS

(example: tall hybrid phlox)

Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the bareroots. Carefully spread the roots out in the hole. Holding the roots with one hand, suspend them in the planting hole at the proper depth. Fill in and around the roots with soil. Tamp the soil with your hand to remove air pockets. Create a “saucer” around the planting hole with soil, mark the planting and fill the saucer with water.



LONG TAPROOTS

(examples: hollyhocks, hardy hibiscus)

Follow the steps outlined above for fibrous roots.



RHIZOMES

(example: bearded irises)

Dig a shallow hole 2–4" (5–10 cm) deep and twice as wide as the rhizome. Create a small mound in the middle of this shallow planting hole. Place the rhizome on top of this mound and spread the roots. Fill the hole with soil, but only partially cover the rhizome. Water thoroughly.



ROOTS WITH "EYES"

(examples: peonies, astilbes) Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the root. Holding the root at the proper

planting depth and with "eyes" pointing up, fill in and around the root with soil until the planting hole is filled. Firm the soil with both hands and water thoroughly. (Note: It is important to plant the top of the peony level with the soil surface for proper blooming).



FLESHY TUBEROUS ROOTS

(examples: daylilies, hostas)

Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the roots. Create a mound in the planting hole to hold the roots and the crown (where roots meet the stem) at ground level. Spread the roots over the mound. Fill the planting hole with soil and firm with both hands. Water thoroughly.

INFORMATION BY VARIETY

ACANTHUS

Easily grown in average, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils except poorly drained ones. Dislikes wet soil during the winter months. In areas with severe frost, a winter mulch is advisable. Can be a bit slow to establish. Flowers are good for cutting. May be divided or moved in spring.

AGAPANTHUS

Thrives in deep, rich, well-drained, moist soil. Agapanthus is frost-tender. In colder areas, grow them in large containers. Agapanthus flowers more heavily as it becomes rootbound in a container. Keep watered during the growing season, cutting back in fall and winter. Divide only when necessary. Does not like having its roots disturbed.

AGASTACHE

(ANISE HYSSOP)

Easily grown in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soils. Plants will perform poorly and may not survive winter in hard clay soils that retain moisture. Plants tolerate heat and some dry soils, once established. Deadhead spent flowers to

promote additional bloom. In areas with severe winter weather, plants should be sited in protected locations (e.g., southern exposures) with leaf and flower stems left in place over winter for additional protection.

ALLIUM

These instructions are for non-bulbous Alliums, such as 'Like in Orbit', 'Millenium', etc. All like to grow in preferably full sun in a well-drained soil. Plants are quite drought-tolerant and deer and heat resistant. Flowers are magnets for all kinds of pollinators. Plants can be divided in fall or early spring after a few years.

ALSTROEMERIA

(PERUVIAN LILY)

Alstroemerias are free flowering, producing attractive flowers in a wide range of colours from June until first frost. Plant in rich, fertile, free-draining soil that is neutral or slightly acidic. Plants are drought tolerant, but watering in dry periods will encourage further flowering. Mulch heavily the first two years after planting to protect tender young plants from frost. After that, the roots should be deep enough in the ground to survive

the winter. However, *Alstroemeria* hardiness can vary. Check the zone information for your specific variety to see if more winter protection is needed.

AMARYLLIS (HIPPEASTRUM)

A special selection of outdoor-grown amaryllis that can withstand some frost. They can be planted outdoors in the spring or grown indoors year-round.

Garden use: Choose a sunny, well-drained spot. Loosen soil to a depth of about 12–15" and enrich the soil with organic matter. Plant the bulbs very shallow. The top half of each bulb should be above the soil. Bulbs can be left in the ground during the winter in zones 7–10. In colder zones, lift the bulbs in the fall and store cool, but frost free, until the following spring, preferably at a temperature of 50–55°F.

Indoor use: Plant in a pot that is preferably no more than 2" wider than the bulb. Any potting soil can be used. Place the pot close to a window. Start watering when the sprout starts to develop. If you want to keep the bulb, continue to water after flowering and provide some fertilizer during flowering. When foliage turns yellow, the bulb can be taken out of the pot and stored in a cool place. The bulb needs about 10 weeks at 50–55°F before it can be placed in your room again.

ANCHUSA

Easily grown in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soils. Some light afternoon shade is appreciated in hot, humid climates. Needs excellent drainage but avoid dry soils. Deadheading of spent flowers may prolong the bloom period and will help prevent any unwanted self-seeding. If foliage turns unsightly in summer after bloom, plants may be cut

back hard. Clumps can be divided in fall or early spring.

ANEMONE CORONARIA

(DAISY ANEMONES, WINDFLOWERS)

Soak corms in lukewarm water for a few hours before planting. Plant your anemones in a site with rich to average garden loam and good drainage. Raised beds are advisable in gardens with heavy clay soil, as bulbs may rot due to excessive moisture after a wet winter. Anemone corms are lumpy and irregular, so do not worry about which side of the corm should face up—regardless of how the bulbs are positioned, they will grow.

ASCLEPIAS

Best planted in well-drained, sandy or gravelly soil. Plant the root vertically so the eye is 1" (2.5 cm) beneath the soil surface. Water sparingly. Drought tolerant. Clumps can remain undisturbed indefinitely.

ASTER

Asters provide mounds of colour in your garden in late summer and early fall. They are perfect to plant with other late-blooming flowers, such as cushion mums, helenium and rudbeckia, in a perennial border or in front of a house and evergreen hedges. They will also brighten your home in long-lasting fall bouquets. They do well in average, well-drained soil.

ASTILBE

Astilbes are attractive, mound-shaped plants with glossy, fernlike foliage that provides a striking contrast to the delicate, plumelike flower spikes. They are attractive when planted in drifts or used in combination with other shade-loving perennials, such as hostas and ferns. Astilbes prefer medium to moist soil. If the soil is not allowed to dry out

during the spring and summer months, the foliage will stay attractive until the fall. Astilbes grow rapidly and can exhaust the soil around them over time, which reduces flowering.

ASTRANTIA

Best grown in moist, fertile, preferably humus-rich soil, but tolerates drier conditions. Cut back after flowers have faded to tidy and encourage a fresh flush of leaf growth.

BABOON FLOWER

(BABIANA STRICTA)

These bulbs are easy to grow in a sheltered location that receives lots of sun. Prefers medium to dry soil. Both heat and drought resistant. Frost tender.

BABY'S BREATH

(GYPSOPHILA)

Plant in a free-draining, slightly alkaline soil. In areas with a long growing season, cut the plant back after it flowers to encourage a second flush of bloom. Once established, do not disturb. Baby's breath is ideal for cutting and drying and very suitable for mixed perennial borders.

BALLOON FLOWER

(PLATYCODON)

Plant in moist, well-drained and preferably slightly acidic soil. Slow to start growing in the spring. Be sure to mark its location so you do not accidentally dig up during spring cleanup. Once established, balloon flowers will not need a lot of supplemental watering, because they can handle short periods of drought. For stockier plants, you can pinch them back when they are about 6" (15 cm) tall. Deadheading will keep the plants looking good and repeatedly blooming. Do not remove the whole stem, just the faded flowers.

The remaining buds on the stem will continue to open. You can try making divisions, but the root system is dense and chunky with a long taproot and does not like being disturbed.

BEE BALM

(MONARDA)

Strong stems make bee balm ideal for sunny borders and foundation plantings where it will provide colour from midsummer to early fall. Plants will do well in most, well-drained garden soils. As flower heads fade, cut back old flower stems and, in many cases, you'll enjoy a second flowering. After your bee balm plants have finished blooming in the fall and their foliage begins to die back, you can cut them to the ground and remove all foliage, but this is not necessary.

BEGONIA

Begonias planted in a container can be spaced 4–6" (10–15 cm) apart. For planting in containers, use a commercial potting soil and place the tubers with the hollow side up. The soil should be moist but not soggy. Begonias grown in containers will need watered more frequently to keep soil from drying out. Before first frost, lift begonia tubers with stems still attached and dry them in a shady, well-ventilated area for two weeks. Remove stems and soil from tubers after drying. Dust tubers with a fungicide and place in paper bags with dry peat moss. Tubers should not touch each other in storage. Store at 40–45°F (4–7°C). For earlier blooms, start begonias indoors eight weeks before planting season (or as soon as your tubers arrive). Fill a box 3" (7 cm) deep with moist peat moss. Place tubers just below surface, hollow side up, 3" (7 cm) apart. Keep box in a well-lit area at

50–70°F (10–20°C). Keep peat moss moist but not soggy. Transplant to an outdoor site when plants have grown 3–5" (7–12 cm) tall and after all danger of frost has passed.

BLAZING STAR

(LIATRIS)

Plant this hardy perennial in fertile, sandy, well-drained, slightly acid to neutral soil. Will not tolerate wet soil in winter. Plants are drought tolerant and, after spring rains trigger growth, will tolerate dry spells.

BLEEDING HEART

(DICENTRA)

Plant in well-drained, humus-rich soil that is not allowed to completely dry out during the growing season, but is also not constantly wet. May tolerate full sun in cool areas but prefers part to full shade. *Dicentra spectabilis* varieties' foliage dies back in midsummer. The smaller bleeding hearts keep their attractive foliage until fall.

BURNET

(SANGUISORBA MENZIESII)

These plants prefer a regular to moist site in full sun to part shade. Cut foliage back if it gets tired looking after blooming. Easy to grow and deer and rabbit resistant. Clumps may be easily divided in early spring.

BUTTERFLY BUSH

(BUDDLEIA)

Best planted in average, well-drained soil in full sun. Becomes leggy if not grown in full sun. Does not perform well in wet, poorly draining conditions. In zones 5 and 6, this plant will often die to the ground in winter to form new shoots in the spring. Even if plants do not die to the ground in winter, they often grow more vigorously and maintain better

shape if cut close to the ground in late winter each year.

CALADIUM

For best results, start your caladiums indoors by planting in pots and keeping them warm (60–70°F [15–21°C]) and moist until all danger of frost has passed. Then move containers outdoors or transplant your caladiums into the garden. They will perform best when soil is kept moist, but not soggy. When caladium leaves turn yellow and droop or when frost threatens, lift the bulbs with tops still attached. Place in a shady, well-ventilated area. Dry until the tops can be removed easily with a gentle tug. Shake off the soil and dust the bulbs with a combination fungicide/insecticide. Then put the bulbs in a paper bag or tray with dry peat moss, perlite or vermiculite to (to absorb any moisture) and store in a cool, dry location, such as a basement. Replant in spring when danger of frost has passed. If you grew your caladiums in containers, move the containers to an indoor, frost-free location to enjoy during the winter, or place in a frost-free garage. Water as needed. When the danger of frost has passed, move containers outdoors for another year of colour.

CALLA LILY

(ZANTEDESCHIA)

In frost-free areas, grow calla lilies in a moist soil that has been amended with organic matter. Water liberally and feed monthly during the growing season. After the flowers fade, reduce the amount of water. In areas where callas are not hardy, allow the plants to dry out. Dig the rhizomes and store in dry material for the winter. Calla lilies do very well in containers.

CAMPANULA

Easily grown in moist but well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil. Cut back after flowering to encourage future growth.

CANNA

Cannas bring a summer-long parade of bright colour to your garden, borders and containers. They require a minimum of care and reward you with beautiful blooms and unique foliage from midsummer to frost. Cannas do well in most garden soils or a standard potting mix for containers. They do best with a good supply of water, so water the plants during the summer if the rainfall is less than 1" (2.5 cm) per week. After the first frost of fall has blackened the leaves, carefully lift all tubers and store them in dry peat or perlite at 40–45°F (4–7°C). Do not use plastic bags, which do not allow enough air circulation. In spring, tubers can be divided to provide even more tropical beauty for your garden. Each tuber should have 2–3 eyes; excess growth may be discarded. Cannas may be pre-potted indoors for earlier blooming. Transplanting outdoors should not be done until all danger of frost has passed. In frost-free areas, cannas may be left undisturbed in your garden; there is no need to lift and store.

CARNATION

(DIANTHUS)

For year-round beauty and a delightful, extra-long summer blooming season, there is no plant like the bright, cheerful carnation. It will do well in most garden soils or a standard potting mix for containers. After the first heavy frost, when your carnations have finished blooming, the stems can be cut back to 1" (2.5 cm) stubs. Although carnations are winter-hardy perennials, you may wish to cover the roots with a 2–4" (5–10 cm) layer of mulch.

CATMINT

(NEPETA)

This fast-growing perennial is highly floriferous when planted in well-drained soil in full sun. A lean soil and somewhat dry growing conditions will encourage more flowers and a stronger scent. Too much fertilizer will only make it grow lots of flimsy foliage. Cut back directly after the first flush, and it will flower again in late summer!

CHERRY BRANDY RUDBECKIA

This rudbeckia will thrive in average, well-drained soil in full sun. Performs best in moist, organically rich soil. Tolerates heat, drought and a wide range of soils except poorly drained, wet ones. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional blooms. Whether or not plants survive from one year to the next, they will often self-seed and will usually remain in the garden through self-seeding.

CHINESE GROUND ORCHID

(BLETILLA)

The easiest hardy orchid to establish, Bletilla does best when planted in rich, moist but well-drained soil. Plants are slow to emerge at first, so have patience in the spring. Mulch the plants heavily the first winter, after the foliage has been thoroughly killed by hard frost. Remove mulch in early spring, well before new growth is evident.

CHOCOLATE COSMOS

(COSMOS ATROSANGUINEUS)

Plants do best in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Dry soils are tolerated. Good deer and rabbit resistance. Remove spent flowers for continued blooms. If grown in zones 3–6, you can dig up the tubers once the foliage has died back in the fall. Tubers can be stored in slightly moist peat moss

in a dark, cool, but frost-free place until next spring (same as you would store dahlias).

CIMICIFUGA (SNAKEROOT)

Prefers moist, acidic, rich soil. Without proper soil and light, plants remain stunted and may not flower. Keep soil moist to prevent foliage from burning. Plants are slow growing, so division is rarely needed, as clumps can remain undisturbed indefinitely.

CINQUEFOIL (POTENTILLA)

Plant in any well-drained soil. Plants are hardy, adaptable and tough. Good ground cover.

CLEMATIS

Clematis should be planted in full sun or receive at least four hours of direct sun daily. Roots prefer shading, which can be supplied by small perennials, rocks or mulch. These vigorous, hardy vines may be trained to grow on fences, arbours, walls and trellises, where the emerald-green foliage creates a dramatic backdrop for the beautiful blooms. Plant as soon as possible but please be patient! Clematis plants take their time to adapt to new homes. A 2–4" (5–10 cm) layer of mulch will help retain moisture.

Because clematis are very hardy, there is no need for winter protection. Each spring, apply a surface dressing of Breck's Food for Bulbs and Perennials to your plants, scratch into soil and water thoroughly.

Prune between February and April, cutting shoots at a height of about 4' (120 cm) from the base. The younger a plant, the lower it should be cut.

Note: It is normal for clematis vines and

foliage to appear withered and dry when dormant. Do not be discouraged if the top growth is slow to reappear in spring. Just give your plants time to develop a vigorous root system, and you'll be rewarded with years of beauty.

COLOUR FESTIVAL MIXTURE

A mix of cinquefoil (potentilla) or hardy geraniums. Plant in any well-drained soil. Plants are hardy, quite drought tolerant (once established) and tough. Good as ground cover. Can be grown without additional care and division for many years.

COLUMBINE (AQUILEGIA)

Plant in moist, well-drained soil enriched with organic matter. Columbine plants are adaptable, but they prefer an acidic soil. They are tougher plants than they appear but tend to be short-lived perennials. However, they will seed and spread, remaining in your garden for years.

CONEFLOWER (ECHINACEA)

Once established, coneflowers are hardy, drought-tolerant, long-blooming perennials. They grow well in about any soil that has sufficient drainage. To get the most blooms and the sturdiest plants, plant coneflowers in a spot that gets at least five hours of full sun a day. They will tolerate partial shade, but plants may flop or strain to reach the sun. Too much supplemental fertilizer can cause them to become leggy.

COREOPSIS

Plant in any well-drained soil. Coreopsis is slow to appear in spring, so be patient. Plants need regular water when first planted until they are established; after that, they are quite drought tolerant.

Deadheading will keep the plants blooming throughout the summer. A decrease in flowering is a signal it is time to divide the plants.

COTTON CANDY GRASS

(*MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS*)

Easy to grow in areas with preferably warm summers. It is tolerant of heat, humidity, drought and wet conditions. Soil can be anywhere from slightly acidic to clay. Plant in full sun, 24–36" apart. Fertilize plants once a year during the spring.

CRINUM

Can be grown in any regular to moist, but well-drained soil. Loosen soil to a depth of about 12–15" and enrich the soil with organic matter. Plant the bulbs very shallow. The top half of each bulb should be above the soil. Lift the bulbs during the winter in zones 3–6 and store in a dark, dry and cool place (approx. 50–55°F). Plant again next spring. In warmer zones, the bulbs can be left in the garden year-round. Foliage dies back in the fall.

CROCOSMIA

Easily grown in moderately fertile, humus-rich soil that is moist but well drained. Keep watered throughout the growing season. In colder areas, mulch thickly or dig in fall and store indoors over the winter.

CULVER'S ROOT

(*VERONICASTRUM VIRGINICUM*)

Plant Culver's Root in medium to wet, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates light shade (and appreciates some afternoon shade in the Deep South). May require support if grown in too much shade. Soil should not be allowed to dry out during spring and summer. Deadhead spent flowers to extend bloom period.

Cut back plants after flowering to basal growth to stimulate new foliage growth and possible late summer or fall bloom.

CYCLAMEN

Cyclamen needs well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil, preferably with lots of organic matter. Grow cyclamen beneath deciduous shrubs, around trees in rock gardens or in mixed borders. Plant tubers with concave side up. Once established, do not disturb and they will slowly multiply. *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *coum* and *cilicium* are cold hardy. *Cyclamen cilicium* is the tenderest of these three and needs a winter cover in areas with severe frost.

DAHLIA

Plant tubers after the danger of frost has passed. Dahlias prefer a well-drained soil and full sun. Though dahlias will grow just fine on their own, "pinching" or "topping" will give you a stronger, bushier plant with more flowers. The best time to pinch a dahlia is when it is between 12–16" tall and has at least four sets of leaves on the centre stalk. Locate the uppermost sprout on the main stem and remove it with your fingers or a pair of scissors. Take care not to damage the stem or nearby leaves. If you want the largest flowers possible, you should not pinch. You will get fewer but larger flowers. When frost blackens the foliage in fall, cut your dahlias back to the ground immediately. Then carefully lift each clump of tubers. Put clumps in a plastic-lined box filled with perlite or brown peat. Space tubers so that none are touching. Store boxes off the floor in an area with temperatures of 40–45°F (4–7°C). Replant in spring when all danger of frost has passed.

DAYLILY

Daylilies will tolerate just about any well-drained soil, but for optimal results, work in lots of organic matter. In the average home garden, a single fertilizer application in the spring is usually sufficient. (A fertilizer high in nitrogen is best.) Daylilies are rugged, adaptable, vigorous perennials that endure in a garden for many years with little or no care. They tolerate drought, but perform best in moist, well-drained soils.

DELPHINIUM

Strong stems, which grow up to 5–6' (150–175 cm), make delphiniums ideal for the back of sunny borders. Plants do well in most average to moist garden soils. As flower heads fade, you can cut back old flower stems. After your delphiniums begin to die back in the fall, you can cut the plants to the ground and remove all foliage.

DOUBLE MARSH MARIGOLD

(*CALTHA PALUSTRIS* 'PLENA')

Grow in full sun to part shade in shallow water at the margins of a pond or water garden or in wet, boggy soil. Best flowering occurs in full sun, but plants appreciate some part shade in the South.

ELEPHANT EAR

Elephant ears do well in most garden soil but prefer damp or boggy earth. In fall, when leaves turn yellow and droop or when frost threatens, lift tubers with tops still attached and place in a shady, well-ventilated area. Dry until the tops can be removed easily with a gentle tug. Shake off the soil and, if you have it available, dust tubers with a combination fungicide/insecticide. Then place tubers in a paper bag or tray with dry peat moss, perlite or vermiculite (to absorb any moisture) and store in a cool, dry

location, such as a basement. Replant in spring when the danger of frost has passed. If you grew your elephant ears in containers, move the containers to an indoor, frost-free location to enjoy during the winter, or place them in a frost-free garage. Water as needed. When the danger of frost has passed, move containers outdoors for another year of colour. If you live in zone 8 and south, cut leaves only after they turn yellow. Leave plants in the ground and mulch heavily to protect.

EUPHORBIA

Well-drained fertile, light soil is best. Drought tolerant, but does not like wet conditions. Tidy old leaves in spring or when needed.

FAIRY WINGS

(*EPIMEDIUM*)

Easily grown in acidic, dry to medium-moisture, well-drained soil. Tolerates drought and dry shade (rhizomes hold moisture), once established. Intolerant of alkaline soils. Plants grow slowly but will form attractive colonies over time. In areas where plants are evergreen, cut back remaining old foliage in late winter prior to the emergence of the new growth. Propagate by division in early spring or fall.

FERN

Hardy ferns are tolerant of cold winter temperatures and can be grown outdoors year round. Most ferns are slow growing and can take several years to reach their mature size. Ferns give a delicate and airy quality to a shady garden. Many will grow in full shade areas where other plants will not grow. Being woodland dwellers, they require well-drained soil high in organic matter. Ferns may be divided in the fall or very early in spring before the new growth is

emerging.

FLEECEFLOWER

(PERSICARIA)

Vigorous and easily grown perennials for any garden soil in full sun or part shade. Deer resistant and drought tolerant once established. Plants are easily divided in early spring. During this time, you can also cut back last year's growth.

FLOWERING FERN

(INCARVILLEA DELAVAYI)

Plant after all danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed. Choose a sheltered, sunny, warm spot with sandy, well-drained soil enriched with humus. Keep watered during the growing season. Mulch deeply in later fall for winter protection or dig up and store in a cool but frost-free place, such as a basement.

FOUR O'CLOCKS

(MIRABILIS JALAPA)

This perennial quickly develops into a bushy plant covered with fragrant, trumpetlike blossoms. Does best in a soil that is neutral to slightly acidic. They are heavy feeders, so a rich, well-draining soil is ideal. The carrot-shaped tubers are frost-tender. Since four o'clocks bloom in the evening, plant them where you are sure to see them and catch a whiff of their fragrance.

FOXGLOVE

(DIGITALIS)

Colourful foxgloves bloom with brilliance from late spring to midsummer on tall flower spikes. Their strong stems, which grow up to 4' (120 cm) tall, make them ideal for the back of sunny to partly shaded borders, along fences, at the wood's edge or in large containers. Provide water the first few weeks whenever rainfall is less than 1" (2.5 cm)

per week. They prefer evenly moist, well-drained soils. Most foxgloves act as biennials, meaning that the plant will grow for two years and then mainly die off. However, if you cut them back immediately after they are done, you can encourage a second round of blooms the following year. Make sure to leave a few spent blooms on the plant, so they can shed seeds that grow into more the next year.

FREESIA

Plant in good, well-drained soil, and keep it moist during the growing season. Freesias do best where nights are cool. After blooming, let foliage die back, and then lift bulbs and store indoors. Freesias may be perennial where summers are dry and winters are moist and cool, but above 32°F (0°C).

GAILLARDIA

Gaillardias provide lots of colour in the garden from early summer into fall. They are perfect to plant with other summer-to-fall bloomers, such as black-eyed Susan, coneflowers and coreopsis, in the perennial border or in front of evergreen hedges. They will also brighten your home in long-lasting bouquets. Gaillardias do well in average, well-drained soil. Deadheading spent blooms will prolong bloom time. After the first killing frost, cut back the stems of your gaillardias to 1" (2.5 cm). Although gaillardias are perennials and winter hardy, you may want to cover roots with a 2–4" (5–10 cm) layer of mulch after the soil has frozen. Because your gaillardias will multiply, you can divide your plants for even more beauty around your home.

GLADIOLUS

Regular Glads

Gladiolus grows best beneath a full

sun in sandy, well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Planting can be done after spring's last frost. Tall-growing varieties may need staking. Water well throughout the growing season. Fertilize when flower spikes first appear and after flowers are picked. Dig up corms 4–6 weeks after flowers fade. Remove as much soil as possible and cut off flower stalk 1" (2.5 cm) above the corm. Dry and store bulbs indoors for winter.

Hardy Glads

Plant in well-drained garden soil in full sun. Fertilize when planting but avoid animal manure, since it may encourage rot. Hardy enough to be left in the ground from year to year in all but the coldest areas. We highly recommend adding mulch for extra winter protection.

GLOBE ARTICHOKE

(*CYNARA CARDUNCULUS*)

Best grown in moist, fertile, well-drained soils in full sun. It is a Mediterranean-type plant that grows best in temperate climates with cool summers and mild winters. May be grown for harvest of its edible leaf stalks and/or for enjoyment of its ornamental foliage.

GLOBE THISTLE

(*ECHINOPS RITRO*)

Easily grown in average, dry to medium-dry, well-drained soil. Avoid rich soil. Taller stems may need staking, particularly if grown in rich, fertile soil. Plants can be left undivided for years.

GOATSBEAR

(*ARUNCUS*)

Fairly easy to grow without much attention. Goatsbeard prefers woodland conditions, so soil needs to be kept moist. If soil dries out too much or too often, the plant's leaves will burn, becoming dry and crisp on the edges.

Having plenty of organic matter in the soil helps them thrive. Avoid full sun. Plants can easily be divided, but it is not necessary for plant growth.

HARDY GERANIUM

Very easy plants to grow and quite drought tolerant, once established. Hardy geraniums grow well in any well-drained garden soil. Do not be alarmed if they do not bloom until fall their first year. Geraniums tend to go dormant in hot midsummer weather, and growth begins again once the weather starts to cool. Be sure to keep them watered, and you will enjoy these plants for years to come.

HELENIUM

Plant in highly organic, well-drained soil. Will tolerate moist soils as well as short periods of dry conditions. Responds well to a quick trim in spring for promoting even more branching and flowers. Divide every few years in fall or spring to keep plants vigorous and floriferous.

HELLEBORE

(*HELLEBORUS*)

Hellebores are rugged, easy-to-grow plants best grown in humus-rich, well-drained soil. Group in shady locations under trees or large shrubs, in woodland gardens or in border fronts. The dark green leaves are evergreen in warm climates but deciduous in extremely cold winters. When new foliage and blooms appear in late winter to early spring, just trim back the previous year's foliage for a cleaner look.

HENS & CHICKS

(*SEMPERVIVUM*)

Drought tolerant and very hardy, hens and chicks thrive with little maintenance. Colouring of the evergreen leaves may change throughout the

season due to changes in temperature, sunlight and other factors. Hens & chicks are excellent for rock gardens, crevices in rock walls, decorative containers and as ground cover in sunny gardens. They do not like wet conditions and prefer light, sandy, even rocky soil. Because soil must have good drainage, a mixture of sand and gravel may be added to improve it. If planting in a container, cactus soil may be used. Hens & chicks form rosettes and spread by offset from the base of a larger rosette. The base plants are the hens and the offsets are the chicks. Hens generally live for only three years. Before dying, they produce a centre stalk that flowers. After the flower fades, the rosette dies. However, the empty spot it leaves is almost unnoticeable because its surrounding chicks will quickly fill in the space.

HEUCHERA AND HEUCHERELLA

Plant in well-drained soil enriched with a lot of organic matter. In areas with hot summers, plant in partial to full shade. In cold climates, mulch after the ground has frozen to control heaving of the roots. Divide in spring when the bloom diminishes and the crown becomes woody, usually every 4–5 years. Evergreen in mild climates.

HIBISCUS

(PERENNIAL & HARDY)

Plants thrive in medium to moist soil that is neutral to acidic. Do not let the soil dry out during its active growing period. Apply ample amounts of fertilizer during spring and summer for optimal results.

HOLLYHOCK

(ALCEA ROSEA)

Grow in well-drained, neutral to slightly alkaline soil. Choose a sheltered location or stake the flower spikes to avoid wind damage. Good air circulation helps

prevent powdery mildew on the leaves in summer. Hollyhocks are biennial. At the end of their blooming season, these plants have used up all of their energy and die. Seeds produced then shed and go back to the ground to start the whole process over.

HOSTA

Hostas bring beauty to shady areas where nothing else seems to grow. They are a delight on the north side of buildings, under large trees and in other areas where too much shade makes it difficult to grow other plants. It is especially important to keep your hostas from drying out in the first year of growth. Check the soil for moisture regularly.

IRIS

Bearded Iris

(including Golden Zebra Iris)

Plant in any well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. To plant, dig shallow holes 10" (25 cm) across and 2–4" (5–10 cm) deep. Make a ridge of soil down the middle of each hole, dividing it in half. Place the iris rhizome on the ridge, spreading roots to both sides. Cover with soil and firm with hands. In clay soil, the top of the rhizome should be slightly to half exposed. In sandy soil, it can be covered with 1" (2.5 cm) of soil maximum. Water thoroughly. Feed in the spring before blooming and again after flowering is done. As flowers fade, cut stems back to the rhizomes. When fall comes, trim away all dead foliage. Trim all other foliage to 4–5" (10–13 cm). Plants can be divided every 4–5 years. August is the best time to do this. Older rhizomes, which have few white feeding roots, should be discarded. Be sure each rhizome you replant has one or two leaf fans. Replant as you did your new irises.

Dutch Iris

Plant in well-drained, average soil. Dutch iris bloom best when planted in full sun. For greater impact, plant in larger groups. Allow foliage to ripen through summer and then gently remove. We recommend letting your Dutch iris form thick clumps over 3–5 years, after which time, flowering will diminish. Lift while dormant and remove and replant offsets that form along mature bulbs.

Foetidissima Iris

The perfect iris for a shady spot, particularly beneath trees, where other plants struggle. Grow it in moist but well-drained soil in sun or shade. Remove faded foliage in the fall. Divide in spring or fall.

Japanese Iris

Plant in slightly acid to neutral, moisture-retentive soil. This iris is happy in shallow standing water, but only during the summer months. It cannot tolerate dry conditions. Divide every 3–4 years in the fall as plants become crowded. Replant the divisions immediately; do not let them dry.

Louisiana Iris

Requires normal to moist soil and benefits from a yearly application of fertilizer. Louisiana iris are native to the southeastern part of the U.S. It is said that they prefer acidic soil, but we have found that they do equally well under neutral to slightly alkaline conditions.

Pseudacorus Iris

Grow in wet, deep, acid, humus-rich soil. This vigorous plant thrives at the margins of large ponds or streams. Dying foliage may be removed in the fall, and old flower stems can be cut down after flowering. Propagate by division from midsummer to early fall and replant immediately.

Siberian Iris

Slender but strong stems make Siberian iris ideal for sunny borders and waterside plantings. They do well in most average to moist garden soils. Avoid dry soil.

JAPANESE ANEMONE (ANEMONE X HYBRIDA)

Will grow in any garden soil, but avoid excessive winter wet. Prefers medium to moist, acidic to neutral soil. Dislikes being moved around. Mulch to keep roots cool and preserve moisture, avoiding the crown. Water regularly during first growing season to establish an extensive root system. For a tidy appearance, remove old foliage before new leaves emerge.

JAPANESE BOTTLEBRUSH (SANGUISORBA OBTUSA)

Easily grown in a moderately fertile, moist but well-drained soil that does not dry out. It is not particular about soil type or pH and is generally disease and pest free. Japanese bottlebrush is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It can be propagated by division a few years after planting.

JAPANESE SPIDER LILY (NERINE BOWDENII)

Plant in a moderately fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny, sheltered position in borders or at the foot of a wall. Japanese spider lily will not flower in shaded situations. Protect in colder areas with a deep, dry mulch over winter. When you garden in a temperate climate, leave the bulbs undisturbed for years until they become crowded and flowering declines.

JERUSALEM SAGE (PHLOMIS TUBEROSA)

This perennial prefers organically rich,

fertile, medium-moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Plants tolerate some dry soil conditions. Avoid wet soils. The ornamental seed heads look very attractive during fall and winter, and the birds love the seed. In early spring plants can be cut back to the base. A fast-growing perennial.

KNIPHOFIA
(HOT POKER)

A tough and reliable clump-forming perennial, Kniphofia thrives in full sun and loves the heat. Drought tolerant, it requires only average soil and water. Deadheading by cutting the flower stalk all the way back often helps promote flowering. In spring, once the danger of hard frost has passed, old foliage can be cut back to about 3" (7 cm).

KNOTWEED
(PERSICARIA MICROCEPHALA)

Plant knotweed in moist, moderately fertile, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Soil should be kept evenly moist during the summer and fall. 'Red Dragon' is a clump-forming, well-behaving sterile cultivar. It is an easy-to-grow perennial that quickly develops into a handsome, upright clump.

LADY'S MANTLE
(ALCHEMILLA MOLLIS)

Plant in rich, medium to moist soil. Lady's mantle grows best in partial to full shade in warmer zones but will tolerate full sun in more temperate regions. This carefree plant does not require any special attention or fertilizing. Since it's prone to reseeding and can become mildly aggressive in some areas, deadheading the flowers as they start to dry is helpful in preventing it from spreading into unwanted parts of the garden. In addition to seed propagation, the plant can be divided in spring or fall

as needed.

LILY
(LILIUM)

Take care not to break off any sprouts that may be on the bulb. Choose a sunny spot, preferably where there is light, porous soil enriched with compost. The ideal site is one where the plants get full sun at the tops and are shaded at the soil level to keep the ground moist. After flowering, remove only the blooms, not the stems or leaves. The stalk can be cut back carefully when the foliage has died back naturally.

LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY
(CONVALLARIA)

Plant in rich, well-drained soil with lots of organic matter. Plant the fleshy rhizomes ("pips") horizontally about 1" (2.5 cm) deep. Divide only when flowering poorly—a good indication of overcrowding.

LOOSESTRIFE
(LYSIMACHIA CLETHROIDES)

Easily grown in any well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, rich, humusy soil. Spreads by rhizomes and can grow into big clumps under ideal conditions, so give the plants enough space and they will develop into truly handsome, eye-catching drifts!

LUNGWORT
(PULMONARIA)

Plant in cool, moist soil. Intolerant of full sun, it grows well under deciduous trees. Lungwort is one of the few plants that is immune to the toxic effects of black walnuts, and it makes a lovely underplanting for these trees. Once established, lungworts need watered only in times of drought, and they require light fertilizer just once a year.

LUPINE

Easily grown in any well-drained soil and preferably in full sun. Good air circulation (spacing) helps combat powdery mildew. Deadhead spent flower spikes to encourage additional bloom and maintain plant vigor. Divide in late fall or early spring.

MAXIMILLIAN SUNFLOWER (HELIANTHUS MAXIMILLIANI)

Offers the iconic colour of sunflowers in a perennial that blooms year after year. Thrives in heat, drought and poor soil, including heavy clay. It is rhizomatous and spreads, so give it enough space. Attracts pollinators all season long.

MEADOW RUE (THALICTRUM)

Plant in medium to moist, humus-rich soil. Meadow Rue late to emerge in mid to late spring, so be patient. Plants may be easily divided in early spring.

MEADOWSWEET (QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE)

Plant in medium to very moist soil. Will tolerate full sun as long as the soil is moist. Thrives when planted beside a stream or pond. With sufficient moisture, foliage remains attractive throughout the growing season. If foliage depreciates in late summer, cut it back after bloom. May be divided in fall or spring.

MIST FLOWER (EUPATORIUM)

Grows in any medium to moist and preferably rich soil. May be divided in fall or spring.

MISTY BLUE WHITE DOLL'S EYES (ACTAEA PACHYPODA 'MISTY BLUE')

Thrives in slightly acidic, moist, highly organic soil in part to full shade, but

tolerates drier soil. Clumps can be divided in early fall.

MONKSHOOD (ACONITUM)

Prefers somewhat moist, neutral to slightly acidic soil but tolerates other moist soils as long as they are rich and drain well. If you are growing Monkshood in a hot, dry area, give it a spot with some shade, especially in the afternoon. When grown in shade, you will probably need to stake the plants. Very long lived, once established. After 3–5 years, you can divide plants in either spring or fall.

MOUNTAIN FLEECE (PERSICARIA)

Easily grown in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soil. Tolerates wet conditions. Best with consistent moisture, particularly when grown in sunny locations. Appreciates partial shade in hot summer climates. In optimum growing conditions, plants will slowly spread in the garden.

MUM

The vibrant fall colours of mums are the highlight of the late-season garden. Among the easiest of all perennials to grow, they are ideal for a sunny border and patio with regular garden soil. A 1" (2 cm) layer of mulch may be used to help retain moisture and keep weeding to a minimum. When your mums are 6–8" (15–20 cm) high, begin pinching off the light green growing tips to encourage branching and flowering. After you pinch, new branches will develop along the stems. Continue to pinch back tips until mid July. After your mums have finished flowering and there has been a heavy frost, cut plants back to about 4" (10 cm). A mulch of shredded leaves may be applied after the ground freezes. An application of Breck's Food for Bulbs and

Perennials in spring and once a month during the summer will result in larger, faster-growing plants with more flowers.

NAKED LADIES

(NERINE, AMARINE)

Plant the bulbs in well-drained soil in a sunny, sheltered location. They are excellent for planting in containers as well. Plant with the neck of the bulb just exposed. For winter protection in cold areas, mulch clumps when they have finished flowering. If you think the flowers are getting fewer, year after year, feed in summer with a fertilizer. The bulbs hate disturbance, so once planted try to avoid moving them. After planting, the bulbs should grow some strap-shaped leaves until midsummer, and then they will die down. After many years, the bulbs will become congested, but it is best not to divide them as they flower much better when grown like this.

ORIENTAL POPPY

(PAPAVER ORIENTALE)

Plant in deep, rich, fertile, very well-drained soil. It is especially important that the soil is not waterlogged in winter, which would spell death to the roots. Once planted, do not disturb because the long taproots can easily break. Intolerant of hot, humid conditions and thrives in areas with cool summers. Foliage often dies back after flowering.

OXEYE

(HELIOPSIS HELIANTHOIDES, FALSE SUNFLOWER)

Plants thrive in average, dry to medium-moisture, well-drained soil. Oxeye is quite drought-resistant, but does best if soil is not allowed to dry out. Tolerates a wide range of soils, including poor, infertile ones. Plants are less vigorous and stems need support when grown in

partly shaded conditions. Remove spent flowers to extend the season.

PAINTED DAISY

(TANACETUM)

Grows best in rich, well-drained soil in full sun. Do not allow the soil to dry out during the growing season. Deadhead to encourage a second flush of flowers. Divide in early spring or fall every three years to keep the plants compact and vigorous. Fertilize once or twice during the growing season.

PEACOCK ORCHID

(GLADIOLUS CALLIANTHUS
'MURIELAE')

Best grown in humus-rich, medium-moisture, well-drained soil. Adapts to a wide range of soils except heavy clay. Water well throughout the growing season. After foliage yellows and before the first frost, dig up the corms and cut off stems and leaves. Store for winter in a dry medium and a cool, frost-free location.

PEONY

Peony plants relish slightly acidic soils (pH 6.5–7) with good drainage. Avoid soils that become waterlogged from time to time. Position the root so the eyes (pink buds) will be just below the soil, 0.5–1" (1–2 cm) below ground level. If planted deeper, it will take longer for your peonies to flower. Deadhead peony blossoms as soon as they begin to fade, cutting to a strong leaf so the stem does not stick out of the foliage. After the first frosts of fall blacken the foliage, cut to just above ground level and discard. Once your peonies are established, annual winter mulching is not necessary as winter protection.

PHLOX

Carpet/Creeping Phlox (*P. subulata*)

Ideal for rock gardens, edgings, foundations or ground covers. Plant in humus-rich, medium-moisture, well-drained soil. Best flowering is in full sun, but plants generally appreciate some dappled sun in the hot summers of the deep South. Quite drought resistant.

Tall Phlox/Bambini Phlox/Phlox Tree

(*P. paniculata* & *amplifolia*)

Strong, 2–3' (60–90 cm) stems make tall phlox ideal as a background for borders and foundation plantings. Plants grow well in any well-drained soil. As flower heads fade, cut back old flower stems and, in many cases, you'll enjoy a second flowering. After your tall phlox have finished blooming in the fall and foliage begins to die back, you can cut the plants to the ground and remove all foliage, but this is not necessary.

PIGSQUEAK

(*BERGENIA*)

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in part to full shade. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, but prefers moist, humusy ones. Evergreen in parts of the country with mild winters. Remove all damaged foliage in late winter to early spring. Spreads very slowly by thick rhizomes. Good ground cover. Rabbits and deer tend to avoid this plant. Plants can grow for a very long time without any care or need for division.

PINEAPPLE LILY

(*EUCOMIS*)

Plant in fertile, well-drained soil, preferably in full sun. Excessive shade will reduce flowering. Keep plants well watered during the growing season. Bulbs will not survive long periods of freezing weather, so protect them in winter with a layer of mulch, such as bark

or leaf mould. Alternatively, lift the bulbs, dry them off and store them in a frost-free place, such as a greenhouse or shed. Pineapple lilies do well in containers.

POLIANTHES

Plant in spring after the weather is relatively warm (60°F [16°C] or more at night). Choose a moist, well-drained, humus-rich location in full sun. Feed after the foliage appears and keep lightly moist. In colder areas, dig up bulbs in fall before the first frost and store them indoors over the winter.

PRAIRIE MALLOW

(*SIDALCEA*)

Best grown in consistently moist, well-drained soil. Remove spent flower spikes to encourage additional flowering. You can cut the plants back to the basal foliage in the fall. Prefers cool summers and generally does not perform well in hot, humid climates.

RANUNCULUS

(*PERSIAN BUTTERCUPS*)

Choose a spot with well-drained, sandy, preferably slightly acidic soil. Before planting, soak corms for 3–4 hours in warm water. Plant corms with claws pointing downward. Ranunculus like cool nights and sunny but mild days. They grow best when soil around the crown is dry but roots are moist. Do not overwater. The tuberous roots are not easy to store successfully.

RUSSIAN SAGE

(*PEROVSKIA*)

Easily grown in average, well-drained soil in full sun. Good drainage is important! Avoid wet, poorly drained soils. Plants have good drought tolerance. Flowers best in full sun. Stems are more likely to flop if plants are grown in part shade. Cut back plants almost to the ground in

late winter to early spring.

SALVIA

(SAGE)

Easy to grow in any medium to dry, well-drained soil. Tolerates drought. Plants may repeat bloom throughout the summer but need regular moisture to encourage this. Remove spent flower spikes to help extend the bloom period. Plants may become somewhat floppy and open up as summer progresses, particularly in humid climates. If plants flop or otherwise depreciate in summer, you can cut them back to the basal foliage.

SEA HOLLY

(ERYNGIUM)

Sea holly loves the sun and does best in moderately fertile, dry to medium-moisture, well-drained soil. This is a taproot plant that transplants poorly and is best left undisturbed, once established.

SEDUM

All sedums need well-drained soil and to avoid wet conditions. Other than that, they are not fussy about soil and are drought-tolerant perennials once mature.

SIBERIAN BUGLOSS

(BRUNNERA)

Siberian Bugloss likes rich, moist soil with lots of organic matter and is not particular about soil pH. Plants can grow in full sun but need more moisture. Leaves can easily burn in direct sunlight, and plants may go dormant in extreme heat.

SPEEDWELL

(VERONICA)

Prefers medium rich, medium to moist soil. Intolerant of dry soils. Weak floppy growth occurs in too much shade or with overly rich soils. Remove spent flower spikes to encourage additional bloom. Lift, divide and replant after 3–4

years.

SUMMER CHEER DAFFODIL

This daffodil has an intriguing twist—it blooms in summer when planted in early spring! After its first year, Summer Cheer will flower in late spring. Tolerates a wide range of soils but grows best in moderately fertile, well-drained earth that is kept moist during spring and summer. Sprinkle a little bulb fertilizer in the hole during planting. Deadhead plants as flowers fade (for neater garden appearance) and allow leaves to yellow naturally, if you want the bulbs to flower again next year.

SUMMER MIXTURE

Mixture of *Dichelostemma congestum*, *Dichelostemma ida-maia* and mixed *crocosmias*. Plant in any well-drained soil. Bulbs are winter hardy in zones 8–10; in other zones, dig up and store bulbs in a cool and dry location, such as an unheated basement or garage.

SUMMER TRUMPETS

(HABRANTHUS ROBUSTUS/
RAIN LILIES)

These bulbs prefer to be kept evenly moist but can tolerate periodic dry spells without a problem. They do very well in containers and can be planted close together. Bulbs seem to prefer being slightly crowded and even somewhat pot-bound. Will bloom several times a season, usually after a good downpour. If you live in a zone where summer trumpets are not hardy, simply bring the bulbs indoors and keep them dry all winter. If planted in a container, bring the whole container inside and set it outside again in the spring.

TIGER FLOWER

(TIGRIDIA PAVONIA,
MEXICAN SHELL FLOWERS)

Plant in a fast-draining, preferably sandy soil enriched with organic material. After the flowers fade, reduce water, then when foliage browns, stop watering. In colder areas with frost, dig the bulbs in fall and store in sand or sawdust in a cool, dry place during winter.

TOAD LILY

(TRICYRTIS)

This shade lover does well in most well-drained garden soil. Plant near the front of a border or along pathways where its unique flower can be viewed at close range. Toad lilies tend to be late risers, so just relax if you do not see them coming up with other perennials.

WIDOW'S TEARS (TRADESCANTIA, SPIDERWORT)

Plant in a medium to moist, well-draining, slightly acidic soil. No deadheading is necessary, but shearing the plants back by 1/3 after flowering will reinvigorate the plants and make them better for the rest of the season. Plants can be divided when they start to die out in the centres.

YARROW

(ACHILLEA)

A very easy, low-maintenance perennial, yarrow does well in any well-drained soil and is drought-tolerant once established. (Be sure to water well the first few weeks after planting.) Remove spent flowers of *Achillea millefolium* cultivars throughout the growing season to ensure the most repeat blooms possible. A very easy, low-maintenance perennial.



BRECK'S® BULB & PERENNIAL PLANTING HANDBOOK

| Description | Planting Depth | Lift in Fall | Cut Flower | Deer Resistant |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| 4 O'Clocks | SB* | X | | |
| Acanthus | SB* | | X | X |
| Agapanthus | SB* | X | X | X |
| Allium | SB* | | X | X |
| Alstroemeria | SB* | | X | X |
| Amaryllis | SU* | X | X | |
| Anchusa | SB* | | X | X |
| Anemone: | | | | |
| Daisy | 2" | | X | X |
| Japanese | SB* | | X | X |
| Poppy | 2" | | X | X |
| Anise Hyssop | SB* | | X | X |
| Artichoke | SB* | | X | X |

| Description | Planting Depth | Lift in Fall | Cut Flower | Deer Resistant |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Asclepias | SB* | | X | X |
| Ascot Rainbow Spurge | SB* | | X | |
| Aster: | | | | |
| Belgian Aster | SB* | | X | X |
| Bridal Veil | SB* | | | X |
| Daisy Aster | SB* | | | |
| Dwarf Aster | SB* | | X | X |
| Marie Ballard | SB* | | X | X |
| Mönch | SB* | | | X |
| New England Aster | SB* | | X | X |
| Tall Aster | SB* | | X | X |
| Astilbe | SB* | | X | X |
| Astrantia | SB* | | X | |
| Baboon Flower | 4" | X | X | X |
| Baby's Breath | SB* | | X | X |
| Balloon Flower | SB* | | X | X |
| Bee Balm | SB* | | X | X |
| Begonia | 1" | X | | X |
| Bettony | SB* | | X | X |
| Blazing Star | 2" | | X | X |
| Bleeding Heart | SB* | | | X |
| Burnet | SB* | | X | X |
| Butterfly Bush | SB* | | | X |
| Caladium | 2-4" | X | | X |
| Calla Lily | 3" | X | X | X |
| Campanula | SB* | | X | X |
| Canna | 3" | X | | X |
| Carnation | Level* | | | X |
| Catmint | SB* | | | X |
| Cherry Brandy Rudbeckia | SB* | | X | X |
| Chinese Ground Orchids | 4" | | X | |

| Description | Planting Depth | Lift in Fall | Cut Flower | Deer Resistant |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Chocoholic Black Snake Root | 6" | | X | X |
| Chocolate Cosmos | 2" | X | X | X |
| Cinquefoil | SB* | | X | X |
| Clematis | Level* | | | X |
| Colour Festival Mixture | SB* | | | X |
| Columbine | SB* | | X | X |
| Coneflower | SB* | | X | X |
| Coreopsis | SB* | | | X |
| Cotton Candy Grass | SB* | | | X |
| Crinum Lily | SA* | | | X |
| Crocsmia | 2-4" | | X | X |
| Culver's Root | SB* | | X | X |
| Cyclamen | SB* | | | X |
| Dahlia | 2" | X | X | X |
| Daylily | SB* | | | |
| Delphinium | Level* | | X | X |
| Dicentra | SB* | | | X |
| Double Marsh Marigold | SB* | | X | X |
| Elephant Ears | 5-6" | | | X |
| Euphorbia | SB* | | | |
| Fairy Wings | SB* | | X | X |
| False Sunflower | SB* | | X | |
| Ferns | SB* | | | X |
| Fleeceflower | SB* | | | X |
| Flowering Fern™ | 1" | X | | |
| Foamy Bells | SB* | | | X |
| Foxglove | SB* | | | X |
| Freesia | 4" | X | X | X |
| Gaillardia | Level* | | | X |
| Geranium | SB* | | | X |

| Description | Planting Depth | Lift in Fall | Cut Flower | Deer Resistant |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Gladiolus: | | | | |
| Glamini® | 3" | × | × | × |
| Hardy | 6" | | × | × |
| Tall | 6" | × | × | × |
| Globe Thistle | SB* | | × | × |
| Goatsbeard | SB* | | | × |
| Helenium | SB* | | × | × |
| Helleborus | Level* | | × | × |
| Hens & Chicks | Level* | | | |
| Heuchera | SB* | | | × |
| Hibiscus | SB* | | | × |
| Hollyhock | SB* | | × | × |
| Hosta | SB* | | | |
| Hot Poker | SB* | | × | × |
| Iris: | | | | |
| Bearded | SA* | | × | × |
| Dutch | 4" | | × | × |
| Foetidissima | SA* | | | × |
| Golden Zebra | SA* | | × | × |
| Japanese | SB* | | × | × |
| Louisiana | SB* | | × | × |
| Siberian | SB* | | × | × |
| Japanese Bottlebrush | SB* | | × | |
| Japanese Spider Lily | 2" | × | × | |
| Jerusalem Sage | SB* | | × | |
| Knotweed | SB* | | | × |
| Lady's Mantle | SB* | | × | |
| Lamb's Ear | SB* | | | |
| Lily | 6" | | × | |
| Lily-of-the-Valley | SB* | | × | × |
| Loosestrife | SB* | | × | × |
| Lungwort | SB* | | | × |

| Description | Planting Depth | Lift in Fall | Cut Flower | Deer Resistant |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Lupine | SB* | | X | X |
| Meadow Rue | SB* | | | X |
| Meadowsweet | SB* | | X | X |
| Michaelmas Daisy | SB* | | X | |
| Milky Bellflower | SB* | | X | X |
| Mist Flower | SB* | | X | X |
| Monkshood | SB* | | X | |
| Mountain Fleece | SB* | | | X |
| Mums | Level* | | | X |
| Naked Ladies | SA* | X | X | |
| Orange Glory Flower | SB* | | X | X |
| Oriental Poppy | SB* | | X | X |
| Oxeye | SB* | | X | |
| Painted Daisy | SB* | | X | X |
| Peacock Orchid | 5" | X | X | X |
| Penstemon | SB* | | X | X |
| Peony | SB* | | X | X |
| Peruvian Lily | SB* | | X | |
| Phlox: | | | | |
| Bambini® | SB* | | | |
| Carpet | SA* | | | |
| Tall | SB* | | X | |
| Tree | SB* | | X | |
| Pigsqueak | SB* | | | X |
| Pineapple Lily | 6" | X | X | |
| Polianthes | 3" | X | X | |
| Prairie Mallow | SB* | | X | |
| Queen of the Prairie | SB* | | X | X |
| Ranunculus | 2-3" | X | X | X |
| River Lily | SB* | | X | X |
| Rose | Level* | | X | |

| Description | Planting Depth | Lift in Fall | Cut Flower | Deer Resistant |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Russian Sage | SB* | | X | X |
| Salvia | SB* | | X | X |
| Sea Holly | SB* | | X | X |
| Sedum: | | | | |
| Atlantis® | SB* | | X | |
| Autumn Charm | SB* | | X | X |
| Autumn Joy | SB* | | X | |
| Blue Pearl | SB* | | | |
| Mojave Jewels Diamond | SB* | | X | X |
| Pinky | SB* | | | X |
| Shooting Star | SB* | | | |
| Siberian Bugloss | SB* | | | X |
| Snowflake Evergreen Candytuft | SB* | | | X |
| Solomon's Seal | SB* | | | X |
| Speedwell | SB* | | X | X |
| Summer Cheer™ Daffodil | 6" | | X | X |
| Summer Mixture | 4" | X | X | |
| Summer Trumpets | 3" | X | | X |
| Summertime Illusion Mixture | SB* | | X | X |
| Sunflower | SB* | | X | |
| Swamp Milkweed | Level* | | X | X |
| Tiger Flowers | SB* | | X | X |
| Toad Lily | SB* | | X | X |
| Triteleia | 3" | X | X | X |
| Turtlehead | SB* | | | X |
| White Doll's Eyes | SB* | | X | X |
| Widow's Tears | SB* | | | X |
| Yarrow | SB* | | X | X |

SB: Top of plant should be just below soil level

SA: Top of plant/bulb should be just above soil level

SU: Upper half of the bulb should be above soil level

Level: Top of root (ball) level with the soil surface

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