

GLOSSARY and FACTS for PERENNIAL PLANTS

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FACTS

1. One of the main drives of all organisms, whether it be plants or animals, is to reproduce their own kind.
2. Plants reproduce by producing flowers and flowers are the forerunner to a fruit and then finally a seed.
3. Plants tend to put on most of their vegetative growth during the vegetative cycle and when the flowering cycle starts they tend to concentrate on the production of flowers and fruit and physically don't put on much growth.

ANNUAL - a plant that goes through its vegetative and reproductive cycles in one growing season. If the offspring occur next year, they are probably from seeds that overwintered and germinated in the spring. Annuals tend to flower for most of the growing season because they realize one of the only ways they can carry on their kind is to flower and produce seeds.

BIENNIAL - plants that go through their vegetative cycle one season and their flowering cycle the next. They live only two years. Examples are radish, onions, Hollyhock, some FoxGlove, etc.

PERENNIALS - plants that go through their vegetative and flowering cycle in one season and the mother plant overwinters as a living, dormant plant. Perennials live for two or more years. The parts that overwinter could be stems, roots or leaves. Since production of seeds is not the only way they have to insure survival of their kind they tend not to flower during the entire growing season.

SEMI-HARDY PERENNIALS - these are perennials that may have trouble overwintering in your growing region. They may need to be mulched or some other type of winter protection provided to help insure survival. Examples are Carnation, types of Dianthus etc.

TENDER PERENNIALS - a perennial that will not overwinter in your growing region. They usually are dug up in the fall, taken indoors during the winter. Examples are Canna, Dahlia, Glads, Calla Lily, etc

BULBS - botanically a compressed under ground stem surrounded by modified leaves. But this term is used generically to cover all the various types of plant parts that we plant under-ground. Such as Tulips are bulbs whereas Daffodils and Crocus are corms. A Canna bulb is really a rhizome.

STOLON - a horizontal stem at or below the surface of the soil, that roots at the tip and can give rise to new plants at the tip. This is often called a runner like on a strawberry

RHIZOME - a thick horizontal underground stem. Different from a root by the presence of buds, which can give, arise to new plants.

DECIDUOUS - plants that lose their foliage, usually at the end of the growing season. Examples are leaf trees and shrubs.

HERBACEOUS - plants that lack a persistent stem. They die back to the ground during the wintertime.

WOODY - plants that have a persistent stem.

EVERGREEN - plants that retain their foliage during the entire growing season. Examples are Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*) Hens and Chicks, *Pachysandra*, etc.

SEMI-EVERGREEN - this is a catch all term I for plants that sometimes act as an evergreen and other times don't

DEAD HEADING - the removal of spent flower buds to promote more flowers or plant growth.

ORGANIC MATTER - term used to describe the part of the soil that is made up of partially decomposed plant and animal parts.

VARIEGATED FOLIAGE - these are green plants that have streaks or areas of color other than green on their foliage.

ROSETTE - a cluster of leaves that arise from the base of a plant

CULTIVAR- a cultivated variety of a plant