

PERENNIAL GARDENS

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Why are perennials so popular?

Perenniability

Dynamic

Different:

Textures

Colors

Fragrances

Increased availability

Increased number of new varieties and cultivars

The picture plant tag

Looking for something new and different

Save money in the long run

Are perennials a passing garden fad or are they a garden longevity?

Perennial gardening as we know it today started with:

William Robinson - mid to late 1800's

blending plants in naturalistic yet carefully planned schemes instead of the popular "carpet bedding" style

Gertrude Jekyll - early 1900's

attention to detail

use of color

add the style of planting in drifts

Alan Bloom - 1950's to present

great English plants man

innovator of the perennial island

Ohm and Von Sweden - 1980's to present

basically made popular the American Garden Style

John Brooks

One of the current experts of garden design

Frederick McGourty

Hillside garden

"Thugs"

Pamela Harper

"Ideals are not always attainable"

"Give the plant three chances"

Lauren Springer

The layered garden

"The Undaunted Garden"

Current Perennial trend

started in the early 1980's

use of these plants has accelerated since then
the trend seems to keep on going , not slowing

The garden style

Difference between an English garden style and New American style

Cottage Gardens

Developing your own style

Evolution garden development

taking all the elements and making them work

allow three to five years to get it right

My style

hardy, easy to maintain plants

spaced to fit the budget

bold colors

having areas blooming together that work together

Formal or informal

The Garden - The planting

Determine why you are making this planting

functional element of the landscape

add color - mass

add color - intricate, subtle

a collection of plants

fun of growing

Pick the site

amount of sun - soil type - environmental conditions

Determine the size

Prepare the site

Plan the garden or planting

Pick the color scheme (if one is needed)

Pick the plants

Choose design or style

Design for a minimal amount of work

Implement

Proper spacing

A few basic rules for success

Use good proportions

Don't create a garden you will become a slave to

Manageability

Suitability to the site

Common sense

A few more rules

Plant in-groups or drifts

Use fewer varieties and more of the varieties you choose

Design polychromatic at first

Use proper spacing

Perennials are very easy to move and they should be moved to tweak your garden,
to make it better

Color

Gray and white are good separators

Color is very personal

Colors are fashionable

Color descriptions are not always accurate

Difficult to match color with the time they bloom

Hot colors - yellow, gold, scarlet, and orange

Cool colors - Blue, pink, and red

***“Fashion - taste - economics
go with
Climate - exposure – soil”***