

# Perennial Care & Planting

Perennials are forgiving plants that reappear each year growing and blooming for extended periods. Most perennials are long lived, bringing many years of enjoyment.

Perennials come in many forms. Some will retain their foliage year round (evergreen perennials), while others (herbaceous perennials) recede into dormancy, and after a short rest produce abundant new foliage and flowers.

## How To Plant Perennials

Proper soil preparation is the single most important factor in having success with perennials. For our heavy valley soils we recommend adding several amendments. Organics will retain moisture in summer and improve drainage during the winter. In addition, by incorporating fertilizer you will provide nutrients essential to sustain growth and promote flowers.

**Master Nursery Gold Rush** is a great organic soil amendment and contains 15% chicken manure for early vegetative growth.

**Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food** is a slow release food which encourages both new growth and flowers.

**Iron Sulfate** provides much needed iron and lowers the soil pH (this makes nutrients more available to your plants).

**Gypsum or Gypsite** alters the soil structure, allowing moisture and oxygen to penetrate freely, deep into the soil. Also makes the clay less sticky so it's easier to work with.

For each 100 square feet you will need:

**Master Nursery Gold Rush**, (10-16 c u. ft): 5-8 Bags

**Iron Sulfate** 2.5 lbs.

**Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food:** 10 lbs.

**Gypsum or Gypsite:** 50 lbs.

## Planting

Work the listed material into the top 4-6" of your soil. Once the soil is properly prepared you are ready to plant. Planting early in the day is best. Remove the plant from its container (root ball intact) and set deep enough into the soil so that the roots are well covered and the plant is securely anchored. Water thoroughly and check frequently for the first few days until it has "settled in" to its environment.



If you cannot plant perennials right away, water them thoroughly and shelter them in the shade and out of the wind.

## Maintenance

- Water deeply early in the morning once or twice per week. Most perennials prefer deep infrequent waterings.
- Mulch: Mulching will cool the soil, eliminate weeds and reduce moisture loss. Use **Master Nursery Shredded Redwood Bark**.
- Fertilize every six weeks throughout the growing season. Use **Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food**. Spread a light (1/2 inch) layer of **Chicken Fertilizer** over the flower bed in late fall.
- Pinch any leggy growth and remove faded/spent flowers in order to promote new foliage and flower production.
- Clean: Most perennials enter a dormant (resting) period at some point during the year, usually during winter. This is an ideal time to cut back, clean up and divide your perennials. Remember, these are tough plants and can survive most anything.

As always, if you have any questions concerning perennials or any related topics, come by the Nursery and ask for one of our California Certified Nursery Professionals for assistance.

