

GENERAL CARE & PRUNING TIPS

PROTECT FROM RABBITS AND DEER

PERENNIALS:

- **Grasses** – Prune in late fall or early spring. May be left for winter interest and pruned in spring. Prune to 3-4" above the ground. Grasses may be divided if the plant becomes too large for an area or to maintain the health and to prevent the center splitting of the grass.
- **Black-eyed Susan & Coneflower** – If you would like them to spread, take the dried seed heads off after flowering and spread or drop where you would like them to come up next growing season. If you do not want them to spread cut the seed heads off and dispose of them. These perennials may be pruned to 1-2" above ground in late fall or early spring.
- **Aster, Sedum, Silvermound, Daylily, Hosta** – Prune to 1-2" above the ground in late fall or early spring. These plants perform their best when divided every few years. Sedum may be left for winter interest and pruned in spring.
- **Astilbe** – May be left for winter interest and pruned in spring. Prune in late fall or early spring. Use dried cut flowers in fall and winter arrangements.
- **Fern, Coreopsis, Blue Clips, Ligularia, Anemone, Ballonflower, Dianthus, Gallardia, Delphinium, Geranium, Hibiscus, Liatris, Lavender, Peony, Garden Phlox, Salvia, Russian Sage, Daisy, Veronica, Yarrow, Brunnera** – Prune to 1-2" above the ground. Dead head spent flowers on Blue clips, Dianthus and Gallardia to promote more flowers. Ferns, Lavender, Daisy, Hibiscus and Ballonflowers are late to emerge so be patient (even into the end of May).
- **Creeping Phlox, Ajuga, Hens and Chicks, Groundcovers, Coralbells** – No pruning needed, just clean them up of any dead looking leaves in the spring after some greening has occurred.
- **Bleeding Hearts, Asiatic Lily, Oriental Lily** – These perennials will go dormant after they are done flowering. Do not be alarmed and think your perennial is dying, it's not, and it is simply storing energy for the winter and next season's growth. Cut only after the tops have turned brown, cutting the tops when they are still green robs them of their vital nutrients needed for storage (the green goes back to their roots) for next year.

Leaving the dormant foliage until spring is a great insulating benefit for the crowns of perennials. Be sure to have adequate mulch/leaves around your perennial for winter protection, also be sure your perennial has adequate moisture for winter; water until the ground freezes to prevent dry freezing of the roots. Most perennials are lost due to lack of cover and moisture.

Fertilize your perennials on a regular basis, especially if you have a watering system. If you use a water soluble fertilizer remember you will need to fertilize more often than if you used a slow release granular fertilizer.

