

FABULOUS FOLIAGE

TIPS ON PLANTING PERENNIALS

WHEN CHOOSING A PERENNIAL CONSIDER

Growth Habit
Mature Size
Sun/Shade Needs
Type Of Soil
Foliage Texture

MUST KNOWS

FINAL SIZE – to prevent a vigorous plant overtaking a less vigorous specimen

ZONE the plant is hardy to

FINAL SIZE OF PLANT – Height/width are important
Is it better planted as a border or at the back of a bed?

PLANT HABIT – Vertical/upright, mounding, horizontal/prostrate
Balanced garden designs include plants of all three forms. Juxtaposing plants with opposite forms create a delightful contrast.

SOIL PREFERENCE and **WATER NEEDS** to ensure long-term survival

LIGHT REQUIREMENTS – sun, partial shade, full shade

BLOOM TIME – if striving for colour throughout growing season

PEST/DISEASE TENDENCIES

INVASIVE SPECIES – is it invasive or does it spread rapidly?

LIFESPAN

READ PLANT TAG CAREFULLY – especially if you wish to buy a particular cultivar. Some perennials can have numerous cultivars with quite different growth habits.

LEAVE FOLIAGE AND FLOWER HEADS
on the plant for winter interest AND to provide a habitat for pollinators

COLOUR

Foliage colour is often at its most vibrant during the SPRING and EARLY SUMMER, though some foliage is the most glorious in early fall.

Source

Pennisi, B. et al. University of Georgia Extension, Department of Horticulture.
Landscape Basics: Success with Herbaceous Perennials. May 2022.
https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201424_4.PDF

Image – Judy Gray

