

Advanced Master Gardeners 2004 Perennial Flowers



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Herbaceous perennials are becoming much more popular



New varieties are very appealing.



One common fallacy is you can plant and forget about perennials



Local nurseries have a much greater availability of plants.



Gardeners want something different in the garden



These and many other factors help
the resurgence of perennials



Perennial gardening is more than just choosing plants



Those that are successful, long term have these characteristics



Proper attention to soil preparation



Soil Amendments



Mulches



Weed control.



Perennial gardens are treasures
but are not without peril.



In my opinion, the greatest risk comes from weeds.



Weeds use as much or more water
than the plants themselves.

Garden plants never thrive if weeds
steal water, nutrients and sunlight

Perennial weeds in perennial flowers are certain disasters.



The worst offenders are outlaws
with their pictures on the post office
wall

There are many problem weeds
including those that follow

Oxalis



Field bindweed



Quackgrass



Bermudagrass and several others.



Deep spreading roots make them more aggressive than perennials.



If you have these weeds, get them under control before you plant.



Perennials are there to stay and removing problem weeds is difficult



This process will usually take
several seasons.

Never skimp on soil preparation.



- Perennial enthusiasts recommend double digging the beds where you dig the beds deeply and turn the soil over while adding substantial amounts of organic matter.



Soil preparation is essential.



With perennials, do it before plants
are put in the ground



Unlike annuals beds, you cannot till and add organic matter every year.



Organic mulches

- Improve the soil as they decompose
- Help control the water robbing weeds
- Cool the soil
- Reduce water evaporation
- Help prevent frost heaving

Be generous with mulches as you
grow your perennials



The flowers will reward you well.



After thoughtful preparations,
spend some time selecting plants.



The challenge is to select those that need the same conditions.



Many gardeners start out to design perennial plantings.

They plant the plants and are not willing to let them establish well.

They then mix in annuals and then
water and care for those plants

That can negate the benefits of
designing the garden for perennials

Accept that many perennials
normally bloom for a short time

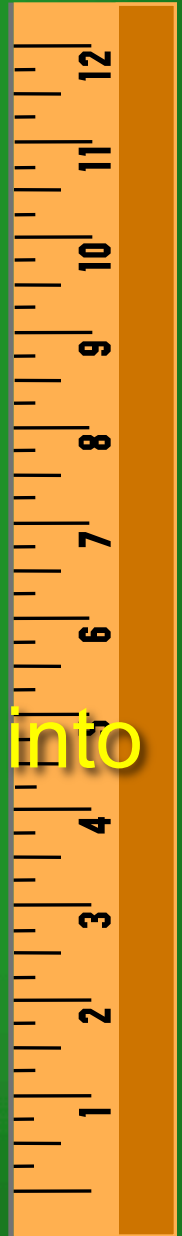


Orchestrating a long bloom season takes planning



Height

- Varies with
 - Fertilization
 - Light
 - Soil conditions
 - Plant vigor
- Keep records so plants can be moved into better locations at future dates









Foxglove

- Digitalis
- Usually grown as a winter annual or biennial
- Excellent transition flower for spring to summer beds



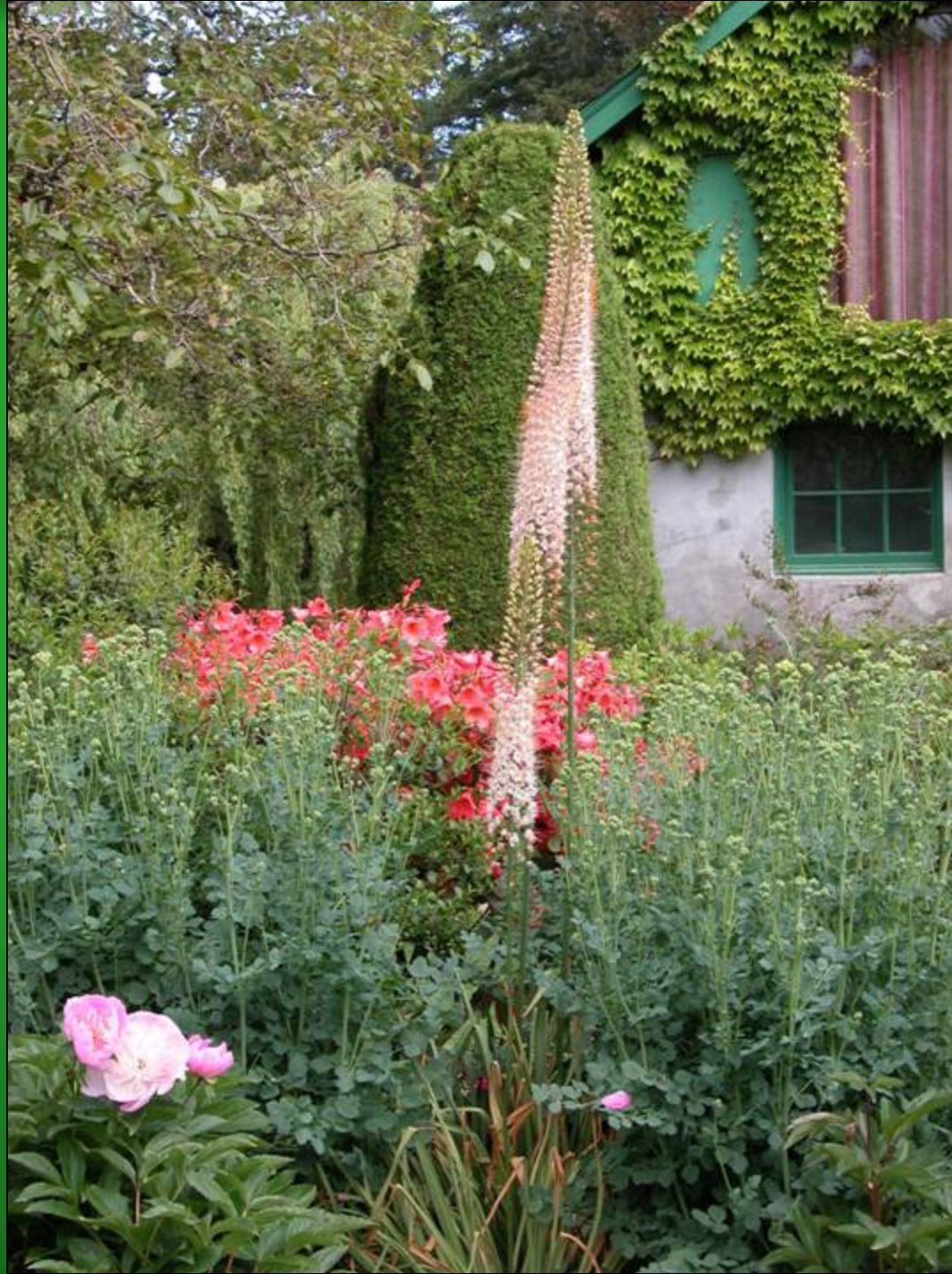




Eremurus

- Desert Candle or Foxtail Lily
- Prefers dry soil
- Grows from roots





Delphinium

- Avoid windy areas
- Usually need support
- Spectacular flowers for early summer











Lupinus polyphyllus

- Lupine
- Many native lupines
- Use for height and spread
- Bloom at different times





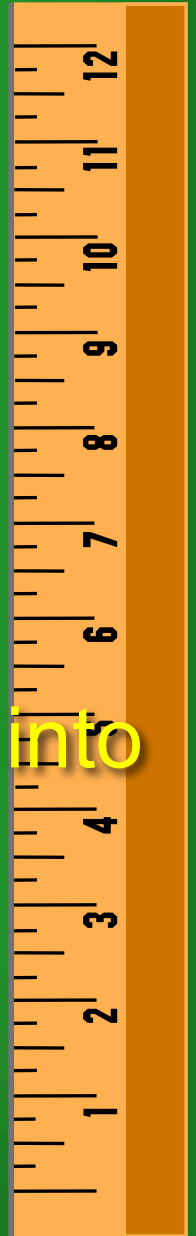






Width or Spread

- Varies with
 - Fertilization
 - Light
 - Soil conditions
 - Plant vigor
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Peony

Paeonia

Height: 36 inches

Bloom Season: May-June

Flower Color(s): Many

Exposure: Full sun to partial shade

Use: Accent or cut flowers











J.P. LAPPY BLEDEAU
JANUARY 20, 1964 - FEBRUARY 20, 1964
BY THE LIVING WIFE, CECILE
HONORARY MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GARDENERS
MAY 1964















Flower Color

- Lists the colors available in the nursery trade
- Does not refer to the cultivars mentioned under the scientific name
- If not mentioned, check other sources for the plant



















Look for the Right Plants

- Many Different Colors
- Many Different Species
- Many Different Forms
- Many Choices





















Using Perennials in Gardens

- Bring perennials into the garden where they fit the best
- Perennial purists use only perennials
- Most gardeners are more successful with perennials added to annuals, biennials, trees, shrubs and accessories























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