

Table 1

SHOULD PERENNIALS BE CUT BACK IN FALL OR SPRING?

We have created a chart to help you determine if you wish to cut back your perennials now or in spring. If you still are unsure, you can always "google" your perennial to get more information. Usually when you cut back a perennial, cut it back to within a couple inches of the ground. Some plants like hostas and daylilies will be cut back to the ground once their leaves are removed.

<i>Perennial</i>	<i>When to Cut</i>	<i>Reason</i>
Allium	Spring	Birds enjoy seed heads over winter.
Asclepias (milkweed)	Spring	Shelter for birds.
Baptista	Fall or spring	Usually foliage turns black so cutting back in fall recommended. Some like seed pods left on.
Beebalm	Fall	Cut back if you have powdery mildew and destroy foliage. Leave any healthy new growth.
Brunnera	Fall	Foliage turns black and needs to be cleared away for early spring growth.
Echinacea (cone flowers)	Spring	Birds enjoy the seed heads over winter.
Ferns	Spring	Leaves left on over winter to protect the crown.
Helianthus	Fall or spring	Cut back to 2-3" for appearance .
Hemerocallis (Daylily)	Fall or spring	Remove dead leaves and destroy.
Heuchera (Coral Bells)	Spring	Winter foliage helps protect the crown.
Hosta	Fall	Cut back leaves to remove eggs from slugs. Dispose of leaves.
Iris	Fall	Cut leaves back to 6" and dispose of leaves.
Nepeta (Catmint)	Fall	Cut back and leave 4-6" above ground.
Ornamental grasses	Fall or spring	Grasses give winter interest if left standing.
Penstemon	Fall	Cut back to prevent leaves flopping over and holding moisture which can cause rot.
Peony	Fall	Cut back as usually leaves have Powdery mildew. Destroy foliage.
Phlox	Fall	Mainly to get rid of powdery mildew. Make sure you rake up and discard those leaves.
Rudbeckia (black eyed Susans)	Fall or spring	Birds will enjoy the seed heads if you leave standing over winter.
Salvia	Fall or spring.	Cut down to new basal growth (2-3")to protect crown.
Sedums	Fall or spring	Very easy to remove dead foliage in spring.
Speedwell. (Veronica)	Fall	Foliage turns black. Cut back to ground.
Yarrow	Early fall	Cutting back in early falls gives chance for some new growth before frost.

Table 1

Coneflowers		
Hosta		
Peony		
Russian Sage		
Aster		
Daisy		