



BLEEDING HEARTS

This shade loving plant prefers soil that has been enriched with organic matter such as leaf mold. Plant roots with a soil cover of 4 cm (1.5 in) firming the soil around the roots. Water deeply and keep the soil moist until the plant goes into dormancy. Mulch plant with leaves mixed with twigs the first winter.

GENERAL TIPS FOR PERENNIALS

"DO NOT" soak perennial roots before planting!

Separate cedar packing material from roots and discard, it should not go into planting hole. If you receive your perennials before you are ready to plant, store in refrigerator or a cool spot at approx. 1 C (34 F) until you can plant. Or pot them up right away and transplant into garden once ground is ready.

Soil should be well worked and free of weeds.

When planting, the crown should be set 1 cm (1/2 in) deep and well watered. Seedling plugs (plastic pots), should be transplanted covering plants with 1 cm (1/2 in) of soil also.

T & T Rose & Strawberry fertilizer (10-52-17) and Bone Meal are ideal for perennials.

Cover perennials with straw or leaves for extra winter protection.

As most perennial gardens are planted randomly, spacing is not rigid, but when unsure of distance between plants space them by looking at the height of that particular plant and habit. Usually you are looking at spacing plants at least 30 cm (12 in) apart for shorter plants to 90 cm (3 ft) apart for the taller.

Deer resistant.

Growing Tips

Bleeding hearts need little maintenance. They grow best in a consistently moist, humus-rich soil. Add a layer of compost in spring for fertilizer.

After flowering is finished, deadhead flower stalks to tidy up the plant. Once the foliage starts yellowing I like to cut the whole plant back to the ground. Mark the spot where your bleeding heart is growing so you don't accidentally dig it up in summer or fall when planting annuals or bulbs. Bleeding hearts can grow too large for a space, so every 2 to 3 years divide the plants after flowering to keep them in bounds and to share with others. Dig up the whole plant, separate out 1-foot wide sections with a sharp spade and replant in compost-amended soil in similar location.

