

**Important**





# t Steps

## to successful summer perennials

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Trim back any old foliage on your perennials and grasses, be sure to discard the waste to prevent any problems from mold etc. A compost pile works great!

As soon as the snow melts, put down a pre emergent such as Preen, making sure it does not linger on any leaves. This helps make your beds as weed free as possible. (Or use whatever you prefer for your situation.). Be sure to read direction labels on all products!

At the right time, usually around May or so, (May 15<sup>th</sup>) clean up and remove any over wintering mulch from around the plants. Be mindful of possible future frost and not to disturb roots by raking your perennial beds too severely.

Check all plants for any heaving. This usually occurs on newly planted items such as Heucheras (coral bells). They may pop out of the ground a bit from the frost. Reestablish the plants to the correct planting depth and water them in.

Now is also a great time to take care of any overcrowding in your planting beds! Divide your Hostas, Daylilies, Iris and others to make new plants or to expand beds!

Fertilize your perennials with a good grade of fertilizer (organic or not). A 10-10-10 works well in the spring to give them an extra boost. Be sure to water thoroughly afterward.

Always tread lightly around any of your perennials or sprouting bulbs, being conscious of the new growth peeking out of the ground, or even the snow!

Top dress any planting beds with a light layer of new mulch, keeping in mind not to suffocate the crown of the plant. This freshens up your beds for the new season!!!

Wait for your new blooms and now you are ready to plant all your annuals!

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