

MultiFaith GROWS
Basic Perennial Planting Tips

1. Before planting, check the cultural requirements of your perennial (sun or shade, soil type, water and fertilizer requirements, etc.) After the proper site is chosen, dig a hole slightly larger than the diameter of the perennial's pot.
2. Score the sides of the hole to reestablish soil aeration.
3. Before removing the plant from its pot, check for the proper planting depth by putting the plant in the hole and placing your hand level with the edge of the hole. Adjust the plant's depth accordingly so that the crown of the plant is touching your fingertips.
4. Remove the perennial from the pot and gently loosen up the soil surrounding the roots. (cut circling roots at various points).
5. If desired add amendments to the excavated soil before refilling the hole.
6. Fill the hole by a third with soil then add enough water that the soil turns into a slurry of wet, runny mud. Let the water soak in and continue filling the hole the rest of the way with soil, gently firming it in as you go. Then water again. (This technique is called mudding the hole and ensures that the roots have moisture)
7. If desired add a topical fertilizer. To avoid burning, use a slow release, pellet-type fertilizer with equal parts N-P-K.
8. Water regularly throughout the spring, summer, and fall until frost. Be sure to pay attention to your perennial's cultural requirement for moisture. Even drought tolerant plants need regular watering the first year until their root system is established.
9. Mulch is usually applied, one to two inches deep, in the spring or summer. This promotes moisture retention, weed control, and as it breaks down, soil enrichment. It should never touch or cover the crown of the perennial.
10. Most perennials can be cut back to the crown after a hard frost when the foliage and stems are brown. Or leave dead plant stalks up for winter interest.
11. Some perennials, like certain types of lavender, should not be cut back. If you are unsure check a plant resource before taking any action.
12. If desired add organic matter to the soil in the fall so it has a chance to break down through the winter and early spring. Keep it away from the crown.