

Weekly Column for this week: 01-04-10
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Perennial Flowers in the Landscape

Once more, I can't help but mention the inability of many plants to show much vigor this time of year, but planning for future garden projects can be a great time saver when spring comes around. Perennial flowers may be an appealing option because these flowers can last up to three years or even longer. There is a variety of flowers to choose from, each offering a special touch to the landscape.

It is best to plan on paper and have a good idea about the perennials you wish to have in your yard. When compared to annuals, most perennials have shorter blooming seasons. Fertile soil that drains well and a sunny location are usually best for perennials, but many of them can adapt to the location they are planted in. Some of them even do better in shady locations.

If you plan to incorporate perennials of different heights in your yard, be sure to place the taller plants at the back, the medium sized plants in the middle, and the shorter plants in the front. This will ensure that all of the plants can be easily seen and enjoyed. There are many colors to choose from when selecting perennials. For this reason, many different color combinations can be used to add a splash of color to the landscape, or a dramatic scene that is sure to be noticed. Also, it is possible to grow perennials that bloom at different seasons to keep the yard colorful.

Perennials need the proper growing conditions and care to last. They can accompany other plants, trees, and annuals in the lawn or garden. For more information on how to successfully grow perennials, you can visit the web at www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-061.pdf. Another publication that has a list of perennials to choose from can be found at www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-079.pdf. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

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