

## Perennial means enduring...

Annuals live and die in one season and must be replanted each year. Plants that die down, endure the winter, but grow back bigger than ever when the spring comes, are perennials. Perennials can be planted at any time throughout the growing season, until 2-3 weeks before the ground freezes. If you buy established perennials and plant them early, it's a pretty safe bet you'll get blooms in your garden before winter. Buying established plants is the fastest way to produce beautiful results in your garden. Plant perennials once and enjoy their beauty year after year. Perennials come in all shapes and sizes. Become acquainted with fail-safe heirloom perennials, or the hottest new gorgeous plant. Learning about design basics can provide you with a lifetime of gardening joy.

Learning to use the diverse colors and textures of perennials is an endless joy. After all, isn't it the pure pleasure of watching your garden bloom and thrive throughout the spring, summer and fall that sparks your interest in the first place? Picking perennials that will thrive in your garden depends on a few things: the climate in your region; the amount of sun that reaches the planting area; the different bloom times of the perennials you choose; the flower colors you like best; the mature height and width of each plant; and the condition of the perennial at your reputable garden center.

Many perennials are grown for their foliage shape and texture as well as their beautiful blooms. They offer dramatic visual contrasts or harmonies in addition to flower colors. The ways to enhance your landscape becomes endless. As your perennial knowledge and experience increases, your landscape will increase in value as well as long-term beauty. You will soon discover the true beauty and many varieties of perennials that are available

## gardening is ...

For most of us, our daily lives have become a complex balancing act between family, work, recreation and maintaining our homes. Although we would probably like to be involved in activities that will improve our own well being and that of the world around us, finding a way to fit such projects into our schedules seems a daunting task. But is it? Right in our back yards - front yards - and decks - we can do something that is fun, healthy, good for the environment and adds beauty to our surroundings as well. Design your garden based on what you like to do to make sure you spend most of your time doing just that.

Gardening is like taking a vacation in our very own yard. It is a chance to get away and *relax* in the comfort of nature. Gardening allows you to dig in, *get your hands dirty* and reconnect with nature.



**[www.growingforyou.com](http://www.growingforyou.com)**

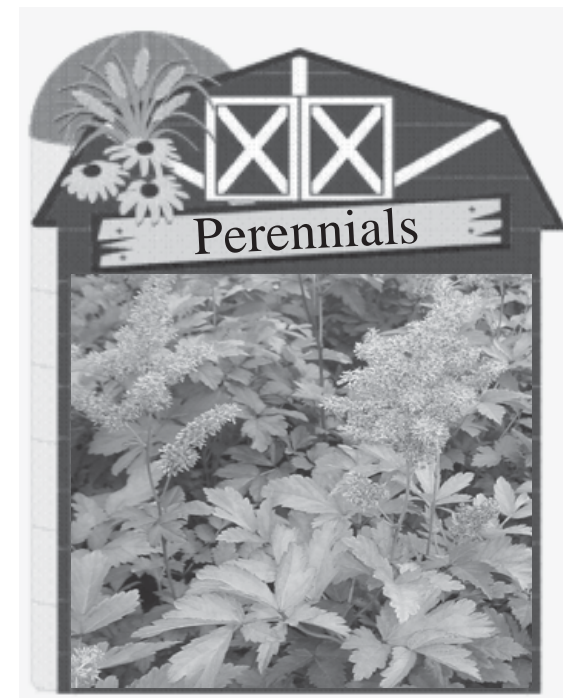
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## ASTILBES...



*...have graceful, airy plumes in pastel colors and are the shade gardener's dream come true. Blooming in mid-summer at heights ranging from 12-48", Astilbes provide cool color and clean green foliage as long as they are kept evenly moist. Pest-free, tough, and long-lived, Astilbes benefit from fertilizer and a layer of mulch in the summer, but otherwise are easy to grow.*

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# ASTILBES...

**‘Fanal’** **False Spirea**  
Excellent for the shaded garden, the rich blood-red spikes of ‘Fanal’ rise 24" above lovely bronze-green foliage in June–July. Long-lasting and vivid, ‘Fanal’ requires a bit more watering and mulching than other varieties in hot, dry weather.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**

**‘Snowdrift’** **False Spirea**  
Lovely bright green foliage is topped in June and July with 2' plumes of the purest white imaginable. Try ‘Snowdrift’ as a contrast to other Astilbes.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**

**‘Finale’** **False Spirea**  
Useful where a semi-dwarf Astilbe is needed, ‘Finale’ has a clear rose-pink flower plume at about 18" in June and July.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**

**‘Pumila’** **False Spirea**  
A dwarf Astilbe, Pumila’s purple-rose 12" spikes flower mid- to late summer (July–August) above handsome deeply incised compound leaves. Makes an excellent ground cover and is perfect for the front of the border. While often considered one of the most drought tolerant and easiest Astilbes to grow, don’t let the soil dry out. All Astilbes like moist soil. Try it with Japanese Painted Fern and Hosta sieboldiana ‘Elegans’ for delicate and strong textures combined.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 5–8 part shade to full shade**

**‘Visions’** **False Spirea**  
While we can’t overemphasize the need to keep Astilbes well-watered, the dwarf family (chinensis) are somewhat sun and drought tolerant. Thus, we add this 15" fragrant late-blooming Astilbe to our selection. Plan on the upright dark mauve-pink plumes from late June through July. This is a heavy bloomer.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 5–8 part shade to full shade**

**‘Deutschland’** **False Spirea**  
Very compact and vigorous, this lovely white Astilbe is tough, pest-free, and handsome. Try leaving the flower spikes on after they’ve finished blooming, because they are especially attractive with snow on the ground. You will find all these varieties good for cutting if picked half-open. Blooms in June and July, 20–24" tall.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**

**‘Peach Blossom’** **False Spirea**  
Attractive all season. Airy plumes of salmon pink move with the slightest breeze at 20–24" in height during June and July.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**

**‘Rheinland’** **False Spirea**  
A clear bright pink at 24", its glossy green foliage complements the flowers very nicely. Like the red variety ‘Fanal’, ‘Rheinland’ will require more watering and mulching in hot, dry weather to stay gloriously beautiful while blooming during June–July. Use Astilbes in groups of 3-5 in the perennial border or mass them in shady locations for ground cover.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 5–8 part shade to full shade**

**‘Hennie Graafland’** **False Spirea**  
A dwarf (16") clear pink bloomer bears graceful, open, airy sprays of flowers in June and July. The shiny, finely-cut foliage is dark green. ‘Hennie Graafland’ is considered a mid-to-late season bloomer thought to have a bit longer bloom time than ‘Sprite’.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**

**‘Sprite’** **False Spirea**  
A choice dwarf shell pink Astilbe variety, so charming and vigorous as to be chosen the Perennial Plant Association’s 1994 Plant of the Year. At 10", its abundant pale pink flowers appear in July atop delicate, ferny, dark bronze foliage. A graceful, airy choice for the garden, it is excellent in a container as well.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**

**‘Purple Candles’** **False Spirea**  
This rugged and beautiful Astilbe is a tall variety at 40" or so, blooming in mid-to-late summer (July–August) when drought tolerance becomes an added asset. The dense lavender-purple spikes may look best toward the back of the partly shaded border, and rise above bronze-green foliage. Known as an excellent cut flower, its seed heads are also lovely throughout the winter either outside or in the house. By mixing different varieties, Astilbes can effectively brighten the shade garden for three months as long as even moisture is available.  
**Plant 18 in apart Zone 4–9 part shade to full shade**