

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 ...

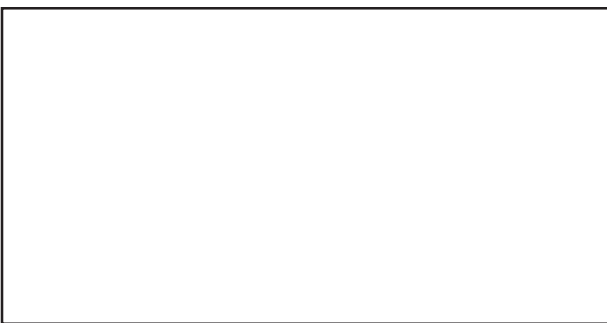
For most of us, our daily lives have become a complex balancing act between family, work, recreation and maintaining our homes. Although we would probably like to be involved in activities that will improve our own well being and that of the world around us, finding a way to fit such projects into our 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

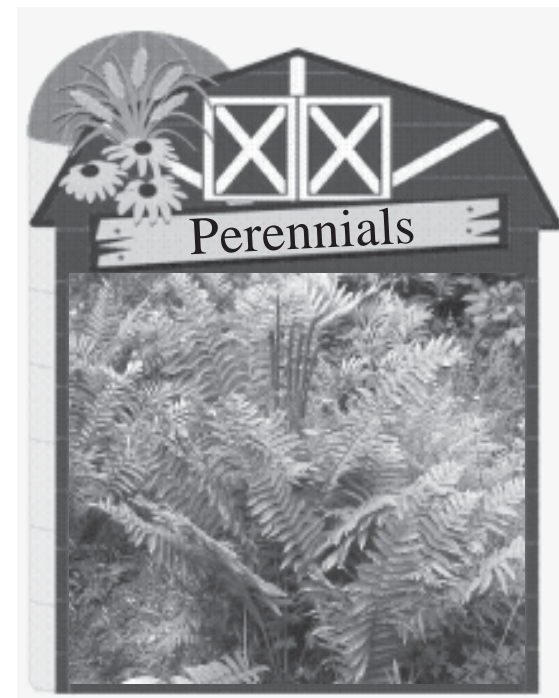
has prepared this brochure for



Copyright 1/04 (may not be reproduced)

Printed on recycled paper

HARDY FERNS...



...thrive in the cool shade garden during our hot humid summers with their graceful sizes and shapes. Evergreen or deciduous ferns (deciduous fronds die back in winter to re-emerge in spring) range from 1-5' in height, and may be delicate and lacy, or broad and upright. Carefree ferns combine well with many other shade-loving perennials such as Hostas, Pulmonarias, and Tiarellas

www.growingforyou.com

HARDY FERNS...

Autumn Fern - So named due to its copper color when young, our native evergreen Autumn Fern matures to a lovely dark green. The 24" upright fronds take on an autumn color again in the fall. They thrive in open or dappled shade.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–9, part shade to full shade

Beaded Wood Fern - Dark green shiny highly-textured leaves can be 12-24" and remain green all winter, but are one of the latest to send up new fronds, emerging in early summer. The leathery pinnae segments of the fern have a distinctly beaded appearance.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 7–9, part shade to full shade

Christmas Fern - Similar in looks to the familiar Boston Fern, this dark green, evergreen, native fern can tolerate rocky soil common to our forests. It thrives in shade, but will tolerate some sun if it stays moist. Its 2' fronds are used in Christmas decorations.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–9, part shade to full shade

Cinnamon Fern - The native Cinnamon Fern, at 3–4', makes an excellent backdrop in a woodland garden where it likes an acid soil with constant moisture, and can even handle wet, swampy land. Its name derives from the erect brown fronds that appear in the spring. Pale green initially, foliage darkens during the summer, turning a rich brown by autumn.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, part shade to full shade

Deer Fern - Narrow, lance-shaped evergreen fronds characterize the Deer Fern. The sturdy fern forms a rosette of glossy dark green fronds at 8-20", and prefers the shady, acidic soil typical of its native northwestern U.S.

Plant 18 ins apart, Zone 5-8, part shade to full shade

Dixie Wood Fern - This cross between the Log Fern and the Southern Wood Fern is rich in color and is semi-evergreen with large, erect, tall fronds at 4-5' when fully grown. This is a particularly big, strong fern for the woodland garden, or for naturalizing, and is found throughout the southeastern U.S.

Plant 18 ins apart, Zone 5–9, part shade to full shade

East Indian Holly Fern - Broadly triangular fronds can be 12-24" long and 12" wide on this tropical, semi-evergreen fern. It has shiny rich green frond with a mid-rib of pale gray-green (almost yellow). This striking fern has a place in our local shade gardens provided the moist, rich, well-drained soil it prefers. Be aware of its marginal hardiness.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 7–10, part shade to full shade

Evergreen Wood Fern - Also commonly called the Leatherwood or Marginal Shield Fern, this native clump-grower has dark green, upright fronds 2 and 3' in length.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, part shade to full shade

Five-Finger Maidenhair or Northern Maidenhair Fern

As delicate and dainty as can be, Maidenhair Fern is easy to grow with its fan-shaped, sworling pinnules to a height of 18". The light green leaves have shiny dark stems, prefer rich, moist soil in light to full shade. Don't let this deciduous native dry out. Try it with Columbines, Old-Fashioned Bleeding Hearts, a masculine Rodgersia, and the leathery Bergenia for interesting textures in the woodland.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 2–8, part shade to full shade

Hayscented Fern - A rapidly growing lime green deciduous native fern with a lacy texture, it spreads from rhizomes and is useful as a ground cover for part sun or shade. It grows to 3' and its fronds smell like fresh-cut hay.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, part sun to full shade

Japanese Beech Fern - Stiffly erect, lime green fronds characterize this non-evergreen fern, with its elegantly drooping tips. A tough fern of moderate height at 2'.

Plant 18 ins apart, Zone 4–10, part shade to full shade

Lady Fern - A lacy, upright habit characterizes this most common and variable native fern which reaches 18–24". It is a lovely lime green with reddish stems, and is as delicate-looking as is possible. It can handle quite a bit of sun or shade in soil that is neither too dry or too wet.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4-8, part shade to full shade

Japanese Holly Fern - Glossy, dark green leaves closely resemble Holly leaves and are so striking that we decided to include this evergreen fern which requires moderate wintertime temperatures to thrive. Fronds can be 24–30" in length. The leaf margins are coarsely fringed, grow thickly and quickly, and are definitely eye-catching.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 7–9, part shade to full shade

Japanese Painted Fern - *2004 Perennial Plant of the Year*. Often considered the most decorative of ferns, this deciduous 18" Oriental beauty blends gray-green fronds with wine-red stems. It is slow-spreading. Its tri-color fronds emerge early in the spring making it a perfect companion for early bulbs. Try it with Astilbe c. 'Pumila' and Hosta s. 'Elegans' for a long season of texture contrasts. A very hardy fern.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 3–8, part shade to full shade

Korean Rock Fern - Considering that ferns have outlived the dinosaurs, it's not surprising that this adaptation is evident in this neat, compact evergreen fern. It is of modest size at 12" and appreciates protection from winter winds. Gorgeous with the blue-green leaves of 'Frances Williams' Hosta.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, part shade to full shade

Log Fern - Semi-evergreen, fast-growing, and a tough native wood fern, its upright stems reach 36-48".

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–9, part shade to full shade

Male Robust Fern - With its strong, sturdy, wide fronds reaching 24–36", this semi-evergreen fern combines well with a range of flowering perennials, annuals, and bulbs, as well

as the Hostas with which it is most often paired. It will also offer support to pendulous Anemones and Spiderwort. Try with the gray leaves of Hosta 'Krossa Regal' or with Siberian Iris.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 2–8, part shade

Mexican Male Fern - Try this evergreen 4' beauty. It will remind you of the Christmas Fern, but bigger and stockier. Thrives in rich, moist well-drained shady soil.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, part shade to full shade

Ostrich Fern - Stately, upright 3–4' fronds resembling ostrich feathers grow by underground runners, die back in winter and reappear vigorously the next spring. It tolerates wet soil conditions so give it room in moist, rich soil and it will provide erosion control as well as a dramatic effect.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, part shade to full shade

Red-stemmed Lady Fern - Deciduous like it is easy to grow for woodlands or the shady perennial garden. Vibrant burgundy color runs through the stems, contrasting not only with the 30-36" lime green fronds, but with other shade lovers such as purple-leaved Heucheras, Carex, Hostas, and Polygonatum.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–8, part shade to full shade

Shaggy Shield Fern - A lovely rich green, compact grower, Shaggy Shield reaches only 24" in height and is semi-evergreen. Like the Christmas Fern, its fronds are thought to resemble those of the Boston Fern.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 7–9, part shade to full shade

Royal Fern - This slow-spreading native fern can be grown in wet soil in sun to partial shade. Its lance-shaped, dark green fronds grow tall and erect between 3' and 4'. The Royal Fern will do well in wet areas.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 4–6, part sun to part shade

Sensitive Fern - This fern gains its common name from its sensitivity to frost, dying back quickly when first touched by frost. Broad smooth leaves are definitely deciduous and provide a nice contrast to other fern foliage and a host of shade-loving perennials such as Astilbes, Hostas, and Pulmonarias. It is tough and free running, spreading in moist soil where its 18" height make it ideal as a shady groundcover including wet meadows, swamps, and open woods. It is relatively uncommon in forests. The fiddleheads emerging from rhizomes in spring form a striking pale red mass.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 3–9, part shade to full shade

Tassel Fern - Striking beauty and reliable hardiness are the complementary qualities of this 18–24" evergreen fern. Its dark green, shiny fronds form a rounded rosette shape. Showy and easy to grow.

Plant 18 in apart, Zone 5–8, part shade to full shade