

Latin Name	Common name	Flowering Period	Plant type	Care instructions
Achillea 'Walther Funke'		Jun-Sep	Perennial. 	Deadhead after flowering to encourage more flowers. Leave later flower heads for winter interest. Apply a top-dressing of a balanced slow-release fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone around the base of the plant in spring, ensuring that none touches the leaves or stems.
Agapanthus 'Headbourne Hybrid'		July-Sep	Perennial 	Leave seed-heads on for winter interest, and then cut down in spring. Keep well-watered during the growing season, applying a balanced liquid fertiliser such as seaweed each month from spring until the plant flowers.
Agastache 'Painted Lady'		Jul-Oct	Perennial	Leave the faded flower-stems in autumn for winter interest. Apply top-dressing of a balanced slow-release fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone around the base of the plant in spring, ensuring that none touches the leaves or stems.
Anthemis t. 'Susanna Mitchell'		Jun-Aug	Perennial. 	Cut back hard after flowering to encourage new growth from the base. Cutting back this way will prolong the life of the plants, which could otherwise become woody and die back.
Bergenia 'Winterglut'		Apr-May	Perennial	After flowering remove faded flower-heads. Cut off any damaged foliage in spring to keep them looking at their best.

<p>Buxus sempervirens (Box Balls)</p>		<p>N/A</p>	<p>Evergreen shrub</p>	<p>Prune to shape in June (see notes below). After pruning apply a top-dressing of a balanced slow-release fertiliser such as blood, fish and bone around the base of the plant, ensuring that none touches the leaves or stems.</p>
<p>Calamagrostis 'Karl Foerster'</p>		<p>Jul-Oct</p>	<p>Perennial</p>	<p>Leave the faded flower-stems in autumn for winter interest. Cut back hard in March to ground level before new growth begins.</p>
<p>Echinops 'Blue Globe'</p>		<p>Jun-Sep</p>	<p>Perennial</p> 	<p>Deadhead after flowering to encourage more flowers, but stop in August so you have the seedheads through the winter.</p>
<p>Hebe rakiensis</p>		<p>Jun-Jul</p>	<p>Evergreen shrub</p>	<p>Needs minimal pruning. Trim lightly after flowering to maintain shape. Remove misplaced or frost damaged branches in late spring.</p>
<p>Iris 'Action Front'</p>		<p>May-Jun</p>	<p>Perennial.</p> 	<p>Break off spent flowers where the stem meets the stalk. Pull down gently on the spent flower until it cleanly snaps off. Irises only flower once so dead-heading won't encourage more blooms but will make the plants look tidier.</p>

Lavandula x intermedia 'Grosso'		Jul-Aug	Perennial. 	Cut back the stalks after the flowers have faded to retain a compact shape. Carefully trim back again in April, taking care not to cut into old wood. (see notes below). Do not feed – lavenders do best treated mean.
Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'		Jun-Jul	Perennial	Cut back after flowering has finished to keep the plant compact and encourage more flowers N.B. Cats can't resist this plant AKA 'Catmint' so they're best discouraged with a few sticks until the plant has established.
Olea europaea / Olive Tree		Jun-Aug	Tree. 	Plant in loam-based potting compost (e.g. John Innes No. 3). Water regularly during dry periods and keep the soil weed-free with a gravel mulch on top of the pots. Apply a top-dressing of a nitrogen-rich general purpose fertiliser twice or three times each year during the growing season. Protect from frost in very cold weather (>-5 degrees C)
Salvia nemerosa 'Caradonna'		June-Oct	Perennial 	To prolong flowering remove the flower spikes as soon they start to fade. Apply a generous 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch of well-rotted garden compost or manure around the base of the plant in spring.
Sedum 'Autumn Fire'		Aug-Nov	Perennial. 	The flower heads look great left during the winter to add shape and texture. In Feb/March cut them back and apply a generous 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch organic compost or manure around the base of the plant. During the last week of cut one in every three stems back to the ground. This will produce plants that are sturdier and flower slightly later.

<p>Stipa gigantea</p>		<p>Jun-Jul</p>	<p>Perennial</p> 	<p>Leave flower-heads for winter interest. Rake out any dead leaves from the clump in March to tidy up, and cut off the old flower-heads. Do not feed as this encourages floppy growth and fewer flowers.</p>
<p>Stipa tenuissima</p>		<p>Jun-Oct</p>	<p>Perennial</p> 	<p>Cut back in early spring before the new foliage appears. Not long-lived but will self-seed. If you don't want it to self-seed, remove faded flower heads in autumn.</p>
<p>Verbena bonariensis</p>		<p>Jun-Sep</p>	<p>Perennial</p>	<p>Cut back old growth in spring when you see the new shoots emerging at the base. Mulch around the base of the plant with a deep, dry mulch (such as straw), in winter to help protect the plant. May need staking.</p>



denotes plants that are drought-resistant once established.

Deadheading

Once a plant has flowered, it puts energy into producing seed at the expense of more flowers. For some plants, you can encourage more blooms by removing the flowers as they fade and before seeds can develop. Deadheading also improves the look of the current display. Some flowering plants are also worth deadheading to prevent them from self-seeding themselves all over the place and causing a weed problem. For seed-heads during the winter, stop deadheading in August/September.

Cutting Back Perennials

In the spring cut back any dead, unsightly foliage and flower stems you may have allowed to overwinter. In areas prone to late frosts, it is a good idea to leave old growth on for as long as possible to protect the new growth beneath. Use sharp secateurs to take out the dead, damaged or diseased foliage, stems or branches.

Pruning Box Balls

Prune in ideally in mid-June when the foliage is hard and leathery and then later again in the summer if needed. Avoid pruning the new lime-coloured shoots which grow out beyond the dark green shape of the topiary as this will bruise the foliage. Prune back to the original shape by eye, or use a topiary cage, using a sharp pair of hand held shears. Take your time and regularly stand back to double check your work.

Pruning Lavender

The best tool for this is hand shears, especially for larger plants. As lavender naturally has quite a rounded shape as it grows, for natural looking plants, try to cut the plant with gentle curve rather than harsh straight angles. As lavender does not grow new shoots from old wood, don't prune too hard.

Mulching

The gravel provides a year-round mulch and, although the top surface becomes dry, if you've ever scraped gravel back you'll know that the stones underneath retain moisture. When advised to feed with an organic compost/mulch, simply pull back the gravel from the base of the plant, spread a generous handful of compost around the plant >2" thick (but make sure it isn't touching the stem or leaves) and then re-cover with gravel. Then water in, to remove any bits of compost left on top of the gravel. It's probably worth keeping a bag of gravel handy so that you can top up the mulch as needed.

Longer-term

It will take between 2 and 5 years for the perennial plants/grasses to reach maturity. Most will form clumps that will require division from time to time in order to maintain health and reinvigorate the plant. It's also a way of making new plants for free.

Most perennials are best divided in autumn when active growth is about to slow down, most grasses in spring when active growth is about to begin. To divide plants, lift the plant carefully then, depending on the plant, either pull apart with two forks or, using a spade chop the clump into smaller chunks. So long as each chunk has some root on it, this will grow quite happily into a new plant.

Watering Generally

Once established after one year you shouldn't need to water the plants except in prolonged dry periods. If you do need to water, apply it at a steady rate at the base of stems and avoid watering the foliage. Infrequent but thorough watering supports plants for 14 days, but merely wetting the surface wastes water, encourages weeds and can lead to surface rooting making the plant more vulnerable. The best time of day for watering is either early in the morning or in the evening, as this reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation and ensures the plants are getting the greatest benefit.

For further specific advice, contact Jane _____