

### *Care Instructions for perennial beds*

- Make sure your new garden gets plenty of water in its first year of planting. The soil should never be completely dry 1-2 inches below the surface. The rate of watering will depend on the weather and your system of watering.
- To have a weed-free garden, make sure to thoroughly remove all weeds as your new plants grow. Try to disturb the soil as little as possible as you weed. This keeps the old weed seeds below the surface where they can not germinate
- As flowering plants develop spent blossoms you may want to remove them by cutting them all the way back to the central part of the plant. You may also find they add interest in some cases. Many perennials benefit from mid-summer shearing or pruning to produce a second bloom.
- As winter comes I recommend leaving most dead foliage on your perennials until early spring. This can provide visual interest as well as habitat. It also can protect the roots from frost. If you want a cleaner look, remove all dead foliage to 1-2 inches from the ground and mulch thoroughly with a good quality compost.
- If you have not cut back your perennials during the early winter then the end of February would be a great time for that. This is also the time to cover with compost and move any plants that were not where they belonged.
- If you are not happy with blooming or growth rates, mid-spring would be a good time to use an organic fertilizer, liquid or granulated.
- As Spring and Summer progress your care will largely be watering, depending on the kind of plants, weeding and staking to keep some tall plants from falling onto their neighbors.