



1417 Drum Point Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23457

(757) 426-7880 ext. 43
Landscape Office

TIPS FOR IMPROVING FLOWERING PERENNIALS

(flowers not replaced seasonally ~ come back every year)

- **Flowering perennials** will enhance the beauty of any garden and come back to their glory season after season when properly cared for. The purpose of the flowers for the plant is to produce seeds. Once a majority of the flowers have faded the plant's energy will be re-purposed to produce seeds. To eliminate unwanted seedlings and allow perennials to flourish with an optimum appearance the best thing to do is remove the spent blooms.
- **June is the month to remove the spent blooms of many early-mid spring bloomers to ensure a uniform and ornamental foliage effect for the remainder of the season.** This practice has the effect of improving the overall appearance of the plant, eliminating an abundance of unwanted seedlings, and promoting a continued bloom period or later re-bloom. Plants that benefit from deadheading in June include Catmint, Coreopsis, Dianthus, Hellebores, Salvias (Sage), & Yarrows.
- **Early to mid-June is also a good time to cut back by half tall late season bloomers to control height and eliminate the need for staking.** Perennials treated in this manner will mature at a shorter height and may flower slightly later than un-pruned perennials. Plants that respond well to this treatment include Russian Sage, Black-eyed Susans, Coneflowers, Asters, taller-flowering Veronicas and taller-flowering Sedums (Autumn Joy, Neon, Brilliant sedum).