



*Adding Color to Your Life*

## **WHEN TO CUT BACK PERENNIALS**

IN GENERAL, MOST PERENNIALS CAN BE CUT BACK TO THE GROUND AFTER A HARD FROST AND WHEN THE FOLIAGE BEGINS TO BROWN AND WITHER. AT THIS TIME TENDER PERENNIALS (ZONE 5 OR HIGHER) SHOULD BE MULCHED FOR WINTER PROTECTION. IN COLDER AREAS SOME GARDENERS MAY WANT TO WAIT TO CUT BACK ALL OF THEIR PERENNIALS AS THE FOLIAGE CAN ALSO SERVE AS A MULCH. ONE EXCEPTION IS **MOONBEAM COREOPSIS**, WHICH ALWAYS NEEDS TO BE CUT BACK IN THE FALL TO ONE INCH OR LESS.

### **OTHER EXCEPTIONS**

**LAVENDER:** WAIT TO CUT BACK IN SPRING, AND THEN ONLY CUT BACK TO THE NEW GROWTH.

**RUSSIAN SAGE:** CUT BACK IN LATE FALL, BUT ONLY TO 6”.

**BUTTERFLY BUSH:** WAIT TO CUT BACK IN SPRING, AND THEN CUT BACK TO THE GROWING BUDS. THE PLANT SHOULD BE 2-3’ TALL WHEN PRUNING IS FINISHED. (WHEN WINTER IS VERY COLD, SOMETIMES THE BUTTERFLY BUSH DIES BACK TO THE GROUND ON ITS OWN. NO PRUNING NECESSARY.)

**TREE PEONY:** PROTECT IN THE WINTER AND PRUNE SPARINGLY IN THE FALL. *OCCASIONAL* PRUNING TO 10” HIGH WILL ENCOURAGE NEW SHOOTS. REMOVE ANY SUCKERS THAT MAY FORM.

**HIBISCUS:** PRUNE BACK HEAVILY IN EARLY SPRING, OR PRUNE BACK TO 2 OR 3 BUDS IN SPRING TO GET LARGE FLOWERS.