

Streamlining Your Garden Routine

Find the balance of fruits, vegetables and blooms of your perennials. Perennials are the backbone of the garden. Fill in with annuals. Put the right plants in the right place for it's needs (sunlight, soil ph requirements). Keep in mind the succession of things happening. Figure out an efficient watering system that addresses the needs of the garden.

Feed the soil, not the plant.

Seaweed compost is good for amending the soil and also good for foliar spray.

Recommended: Shady Lane Garden Supply and Seaweed from Coast of Norway.

Compost bins can be attractive as a part of garden architecture (ie. one made of long birch logs with open spaces between the logs).

Hay lightens up the soil.

Recommended Book: Ruth Stout, "How to Have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back:

Weeding Tip: Start at the edges and work you way in.

Deadheading:

Tie a string to your weeding tools or apply colorful duct tape so you can fine your tools easily in the garden.

Use a snap/twist motion to deadhead.

For daylilies, just comb fingers from the bottom up, finger through and grab combs to deadhead.

When you cut things back heavily, you want to fertilize.

Do's & Don'ts

- Do test your soil.*
- Don't fertilize blindly.*

When planting, dig all your holes at once.

Step back and review placement before planting.

If you have a potbound plant, soak it in a gallon bucket of water with 2 TBSP seaweed fertilizer. Leave plant in bucket until no more bubbles appear.

Too much nitrogen in the soil will attract insects.

Nitrogen tastes like sugar to bugs, even the nitrogen in chemical fertilizers.

Fertilize with seaweed fertilizer three times per year.

It makes the plant too sweet and makes them strong by adding chlorophyll. Insects die when they start to eat it. Use seaweed foliar spray every 7-10 days to add chlorophyll to the plant.

Plant Tone makes a nice side dressing in mid-August.

Whenever you add manure, you are adding nitrogen to your soil.

Sunflowers take out the junk in the soil.

Brassicas will also, but don't eat them and don't compost them. Mulching keeps plants off the ground, protecting it against backsplash from heavy rain.

When planting on a hill, a good plan is sedums for slow run-off with hostas at the bottom to catch run-off. Use dark pine bark mulch 4 inches thick. It must be bark mulch and not chips.

When planting on a hot day, water the hole and soak the plant, then plant to help plant with stress from heat.