

## *Design Tips for Bountiful Gardens*

1. ***Less is not more with flowers***      Space flowers closely 6"-8" apart for annuals, 18"-24" apart for perennials. Plant multiples of any single variety for more color impact. Interplant spreading annuals among upright perennials to keep down weeds.
2. ***Focal Points***      Concentrate annuals for summer color near patio or deck spaces – the places you spend the most time. Place some eye-catching colors farther away to lead you towards more remote areas. Why enjoy only one pot when you can have three?
3. ***Don't plant in rows***      Triangles are better – odd numbers of plants make it easier to think about naturalistic drifts and groups
4. ***Water before you start***      Give your plants the best start you can. A little fish fertilizer or dilute miracle-gro goes a long way toward bringing plants through the transplanting process.
5. ***Pay attention to site conditions***      How many hours of sun does an area get in the middle of the summer? Remember, deciduous trees will leaf out and the sun is higher in the sky than it is in late winter. Are there areas where water collects, or runs off before it gets a chance to soak into the soil?
6. ***Amend the soil***      Add compost with every plant. Mix some into the bottom of the hole, and also into the backfill. Add an inch or two on top to help retain moisture, but don't cover the stems as they may rot.
7. ***Barkdust areas***      When planting annuals or perennials into an area with lots of barkdust, pull the chunkiest top layer to the side and mix the more composted lower layers into the soil before planting – replace top layer and fertilize.
8. ***Water when finished planting***      Seems obvious, but you'd be surprised how easy it is to forget this most important step. Even if the soil seems moist on planting day...Add some gentle fish fertilizer to allow your plants uninterrupted growth.