

PERENNIALS: DEADHEADING BASICS

Plant Name	Will it rebloom	Tips
Angelita Daisy <i>Hymenoxys acaulis</i>	No	Cut single flower stalks back to foliage to promote bloom throughout the growing season
Astilbe <i>Astilbe spp.</i>	No	Leave seedheads for late season interest then cut back when they become tired looking
Baby's Breath <i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Yes	Cut panicles of spent flowers to side shoots to prolong blooming; shear stems to ground after first bloom finishes to promote second bloom
Blanket Flower <i>Gaillardia spp.</i>	Yes	Snip off individual flowers to the next set of leaves; stop deadheading in August
Balloon Flower <i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	Yes	Remove individual spent flowers to prolong bloom
Bear's Breech <i>Acanthus spp.</i>	No	Leave spent flowers standing as they remain interesting for several weeks; when they become untidy, cut to basal rosette of foliage
Bee Balm <i>Monarda spp.</i>	No	Cut spent blooms back to side buds to prolong bloom; after bloom is finished, cut stems down to 4-5 in. so that only healthy foliage remains
Bergenia <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	No	After bloom is finished, cut flower stems off at the ground; shear back entire plant late in season to promote a fuller plant
Bell flower <i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Yes	Pinch off individual flowers as they fade; cut entire stalk back to within 6 in. of the ground when bloom is finished to encourage rebloom; releases a sticky substance when cut
Bleeding Heart <i>Dicentra spp.</i>	Yes	Cut flower stems to basal mound of foliage
Bleeding Heart, fringed <i>Dicentra formosa</i>	Yes	Remove spent flowers stems down to foliage - if done regularly this plant can bloom into fall
Blue flax <i>Linum lewisii</i>	Yes	Shear back plant after most of the blooms have faded; when stems begin to brown, shear back to new foliage; may produce a second, smaller re-bloom; reseeds heavily if not deadheaded
Cardinal flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Yes	Cut down spent spikes to 2-3 in. from the ground to promote a second, smaller bloom; short-lived to allow some seeds to ripen
Catmint <i>Nepeta spp.</i>	Yes	Cut stems down to 2-3 in. after flowering - keeps plant looking neat; may or may not reflower but deadheading prevents reseeding
Chocolate flower <i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	No	Deadheading will prolong bloom; flowers open in morning and fade in afternoon; look carefully before cutting as spent blooms and new blooms look similar
Columbine <i>Aquilegia spp.</i>	Yes	Snip off spent flowers to side stems; cut entire stem to ground when finished blooming; allow some seedheads to ripen to allow for volunteer plants
Coral bells <i>Heuchera hybrids</i>	Yes	As flowering stems finish cut them below the low mound of foliage
Daylily <i>Hemerocallis hybrids</i>	Yes	Snapping off spent flowers as they wilt will keep later flowers large; once a stem is finished, cut it to the ground; some cultivars rebloom but others do not
Delphinium <i>Delphinium elatum</i>	Yes	Pinch off spent flowers along the stem; cut finished spikes to leaf bud to encourage smaller side shoots; cut to basal foliage when all flowers are done

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Dianthus <i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i>	No	Remove spent stems to mound foliage to keep plant tidy
Foxglove <i>Digitalis</i> spp.	Yes	Pinch off individual flowers along stem; remove stems to ground when flowers are finished; may rebloom with smaller flowers
Gaura <i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	Yes	Flowers most of the summer without deadheading on stems that keep producing branches; cut out stems that have bloomed to prevent reseeding and to encourage more branching
Geum <i>Geum</i> hybrids	No	Will flower longer if deadheaded; cut spent flowers back to budded side branches; later remove entire stem to mound of foliage
Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i> spp.	Yes	Deadhead first and largest flowering back to healthy foliage to promote smaller second flowering; cut all seedheads to prevent re-seeding
Hardy Geranium <i>Geranium</i> spp.	Yes	Cut tall cultivars by 2-3 in. after most of the flowers have finished; cut low spreaders back 4-6 in.; some cultivars rebloom
Hellebore <i>Helleborus</i> spp.	No	Pinch off spent flowers with fingers or small scissors to prevent reseeding; will not rebloom
Hollyhock <i>Alcea rosea</i>	Yes	Pinch off spent flowers along the stems as they wilt; leave a few flowers to reseed; once all flowers have faded, cut stem to basal foliage
Iris, bearded <i>Iris</i> hybrids	No	Pinch off spent flowers before they form seedpods; cut entire stem to foliage fan after all flowers have faded to keep plant tidy
Iris, Siberian <i>Iris sibirica</i>	No	Remove flowers as they fade to keep plant tidy and to prevent formation of seedpods; remove entire stem to foliage after all flowers have faded
Jupiter's Beard <i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Yes	Cut back to side shoots as flowers fade; prolific seeder if seedheads are not removed; may rebloom if spent stems are cut down to 3-4 in.
Lavender <i>Lavandula</i> spp.	Yes	Harvest flowers with stems, cutting entire plant back to healthy foliage to promote a second flowering; rebloom is shorter than first
Lily <i>Lilium</i> hybrids	No	Pinch off individual flowers as they fade; leave foliage until it yellows to supply food for the bulb; try to leave as many leaves as possible
Lupine <i>Lupinus</i> hybrids	Yes	After spring flowering, cut stems to small emerging buds along stems to produce second flowering
Mullein <i>Verbascum</i> spp.	Yes	Cut main spikes to side branches; cut entire plant to ground after bloom to stimulate late flowering
Peony <i>Paeonia</i> spp. and hybrids	No	Snip off spent flowers back to the first leaf to keep entire plant tidy; leave as much foliage as possible to feed the plant
Penstemon <i>Penstemon barbatus</i>	No	Deadhead to side buds or branches to prolong flowering; cut stems to ground when finished blooming

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Pincushion flower <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Yes	Pick off spent flowers before seed forms; cut entire stems to basal rosette when finished to prolong bloom; buds and seedheads look similar so cut carefully
Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Yes	Reblooms fine even without deadheading; cutting off early blooms to side shoots keeps later blooms larger; leave a few seedheads for the birds
Salvia <i>Salvia nemerosa</i>	Yes	Deadheading promotes longer bloom; snip off spikes to side branches; cut stems to basal foliage to encourage a late summer re-bloom
Shasta daisy <i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>	Yes	Deadhead spent blooms to side shoots to promote longer bloom time; cut spent stems to 2 - 3 in. for smaller rebloom
Speedwell <i>Veronica spicata</i>	Yes	Cut spent flower spike back to side branches to promote longer bloom; once finished, cut entire stem to ground; may produce a second, smaller re-bloom
Spike blazing star <i>Liatris spicata</i>	Yes	Cut stems back to top of foliage after flowers fade; smaller second flowers may sprout from stems or near the ground; if not deadheaded then birds will flock to the seeds
Stoke's aster <i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Yes	Cut spent flowers to a side bud to prolong blooming; when flowers finish, remove stems to ground; may rebloom; buds and seed heads look similar
Tall garden phlox <i>Phlox paniculata</i>	No	Snip off spent flower clusters; flowering side branches will develop; deadhead to the ground when bloom is finished
Tall sedum <i>Sedum spectabile</i>	No	No need to deadhead - leave seedheads standing for winter interest and for birds
Tickseed <i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Yes	Frequent deadheading will keep plant blooming almost all summer; cut flower stems back to side branches; eventually remove all spent stems to ground
		<i>Information in this chart is taken from Garden Gate Magazine's Plant-by-Plant Deadheading Guide</i>