



# *Garden Tips*

## **Deadheading for a Great Display**

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One of the least strenuous and most relaxing of garden tasks is deadheading—removing the spent blossoms from many perennials and annuals. It gives you a good excuse to wander in the garden, and it pays off.

Hopefully you have already snipped the spent flower heads from your narcissus and most tulips, and it's about time for the irises. This prevents the plant from wasting energy on seed production—who grows daffodils from seed?!?—and if you leave the foliage to decay, it sends nutrients to the root or bulb for next season's bloom.

Daylilies require constant attention because their large, fleshy flowers last only one day and their remains look very sloppy when not removed. As your daylilies mature, you will have increasing numbers of buds on each scape (flower stem), so you want to make room for succeeding buds to open.

Some perennials will even flower all season if you keep up with the deadheading. These include Columbine, hardy Geranium, Echinacea and Echinops.

And don't forget your Rhododendrons and Laurels if you want a great display next year.