

Olivette *Life*

...in the center of it all

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Flower Beds Are Planted – Now What? from Olivette In Bloom

Watering with automatic sprinkler or hand watering: Established perennial plants require 1 inch of water per week. Less frequent, deeper watering is preferred. Shallower and more frequent watering is necessary for perennials that are establishing and for annuals. Continue watering into fall as long as the beds are dry but not frozen.

Mulching: After the soil has warmed, apply 1-2 inches mulch to control weeds, reduce moisture evaporation and temperature fluctuations (especially winter fluctuations) and to protect against erosion. It is not necessary to add extra mulch for winter unless perennials are transplanted in fall or for marginally hardy perennials.

Fertilizer: Most perennials do not require large amounts of fertilizer. Annuals can benefit from an application of high phosphate fertilizer for flowers or a balanced fertilizer for foliage plants.

Deadheading: The benefits are numerous from deadheading (pruning, shearing, snipping) your perennials and annuals. Extend the bloom time and promote repeat

bloom by not allowing the plants to go to seed. Encourage new growth and make the plant bushier. Stagger the bloom time or plant height with pruning or reduce plant height to eliminate the need for staking. Removing some flower buds can increase the remaining flower size. Prevent or control diseases and pests by increasing air circulation or prune out damages foliage with insects or disease.

Keep notes: Make notes on which plants are successful in your gardening situation and what combinations look great so in future years, you will have that information.

Please check www.olivetteinbloom.org for - information on deadheading – workdays at one of our 3 gardens – fall mum sale September 15 (pre-order form).

