Why You Should Deadhead Perennials and Shrubs

Deadheading perennials and shrubs is one of the most important maintenance tasks to promote reblooming. This task is a simple way to repeat blooms and improve the look of the plant throughout the growing season.



Why is deadheading important?

As flower buds fade, energy is reverted to reproduction. This shift in energy takes away energy from the plants ability to grow and thrive and causes seed production to start. By taking spent flower buds off, energy is used toward more flower production and plant growth.

Which plants typically need deadheading?

While most perennials and shrubs would benefit from deadheading, to improve the look of the plant and to prevent diseases from rotting flower material, there are specific varieties that need deadheading to promote reblooming. This list includes but is not limited to:

- Phlox
- Spirea
- Daylilies
- Salvia
- Dianthus
- Daisies
- Liatris
- Armeria
- Potentilla
- Coreopsis



How to deadhead spent flowers

Deadheading is a simple process. Choose to either pinch the flower bud off with your fingers if the plant material is tender enough our use a bypass pruner. From the spent flower follow the stem down to the next leaf node and cut just above the leaf node. Continue this process until all spent flowers are gone.

If the plant is in need of shaping this is a great time to do that as well. The process of deadheading may have to be repeated several times during the season, or possibly just one time depending on the plant.