

A close-up photograph of two young seedlings with dew drops on a mossy surface. The seedlings have thin, light-colored stems and small, emerging green leaves. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text 'Gardening 101' is overlaid in the top right, and 'Christie Lovat' is overlaid in the bottom left.

Gardening 101

**Christie
Lovat**

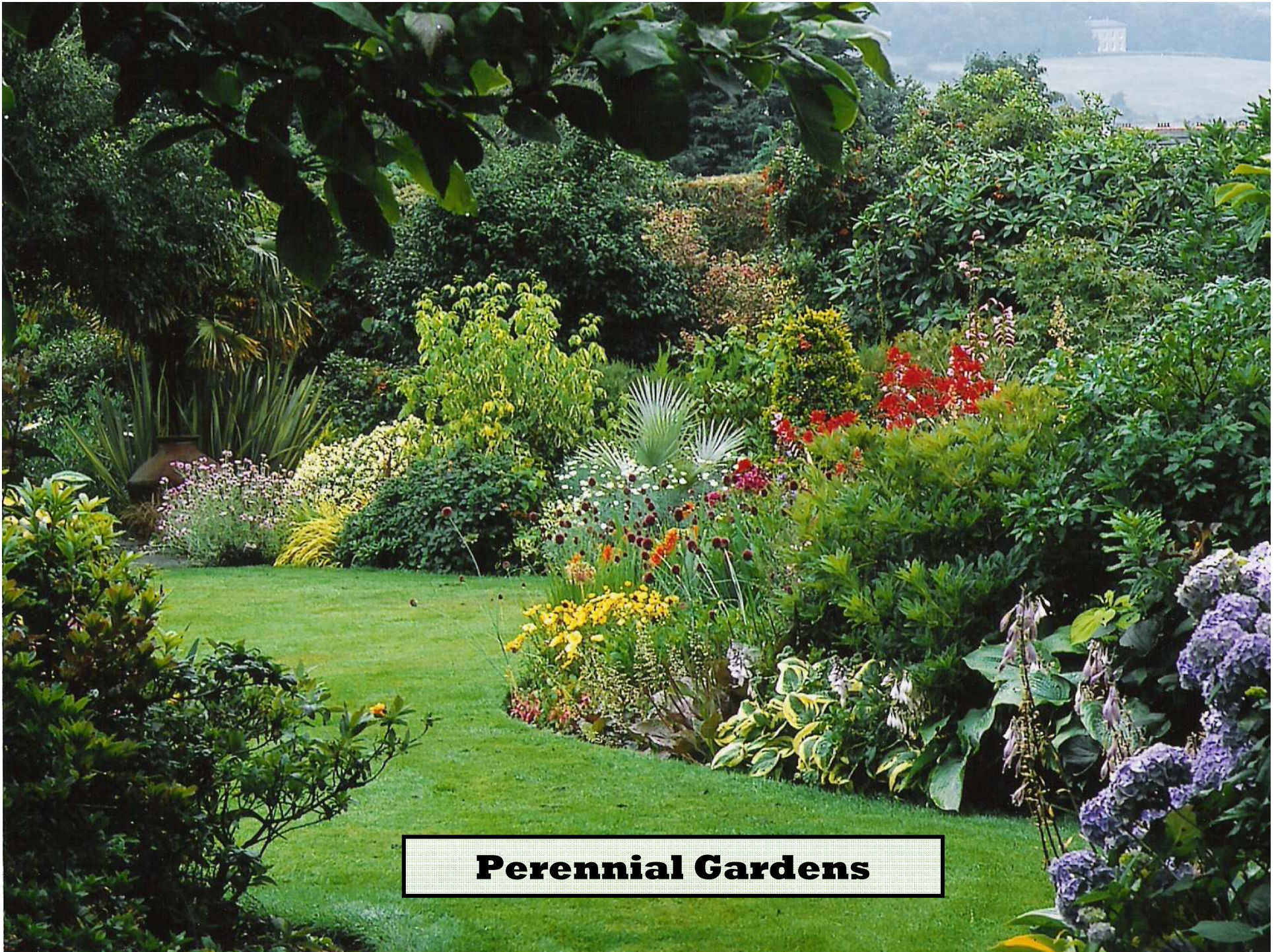


Anyone can have a garden like this

The Basics

- Things this presentation will cover:
 - Your soil
 - Figuring out sunlight needs
 - Watering
 - Fertilizing
 - Planting perennials, annuals, bulbs, and trees
 - Tricks for magazine-worthy gardens
 - Establishing plants
 - Container gardening





Perennial Gardens

Soil



Identifying your Soil

- Most important knowledge for a successful garden.
- Spectrum from sand to clay.
 - Based on particle size which affects the ability to hold water and nutrients.



Soil Test at Home

Squeeze Test

- **Clay soil**
 - It will hold its shape, and, when poked, sits stubbornly in your hand.
- **Sand**
 - It will fall apart as soon as you open your hand.
- **Loam**
 - It will hold its shape, and when you give it a light poke, it crumbles. Lucky You!



Soil in Gardening

- Soil tells you what planting strategies you need.
- Sand:
 - All plants can grow in this.
 - Need to water more.
- Silt (also loam):
 - Best!
 - All plants grow well.
 - Lowest maintenance.



Soil in Gardening

- Clay:
 - Most areas of the West Island.
 - Very fertile.
 - But poor drainage.
 - Most plants do not grow well without help.
 - Need to add different type of soil around planted garden plants for success.



Planting for Success

- Many plants only do well in one type of soil.
- You can overcome the limitations of any soil!
 - Poor soil, clay only, doesn't matter!
- Just need to plant properly.
 - Less important for annuals.



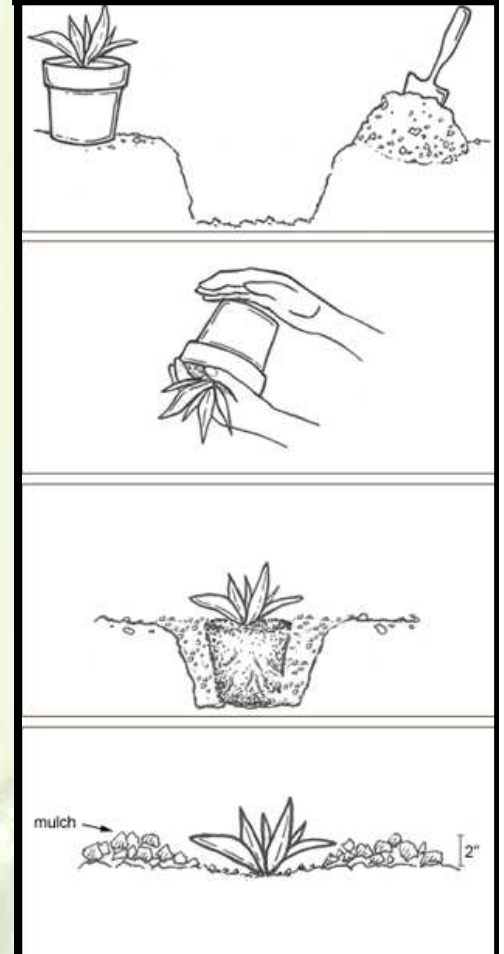
How to Plant Perennials

- Look up the soil preferences of your plant.
 - If unknown, compost is a good guess.
 - NEVER buy discount soil from hardware stores.
- Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball.
- Place pot with plant in hole to make sure it is deep enough.
 - Base of plant should be level with soil line.



How to Plant Perennials

- Water the potted plant.
- Water the hole.
- Remove the root ball from the pot.
 - Gently loosen roots at the edges of the root ball.
- Place plant in the center of the hole.
- Fill the hole with the preferred soil.
- Water thoroughly.

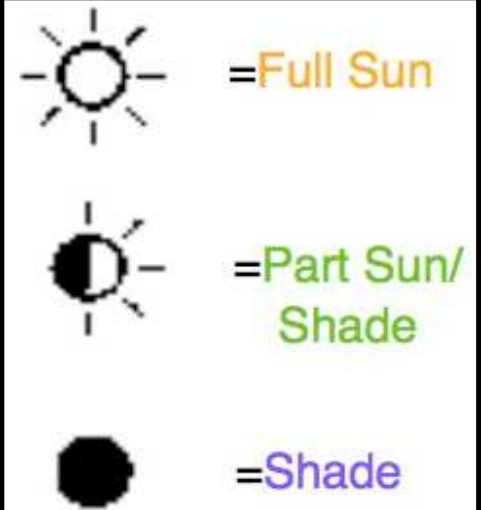


A photograph of a field of flowers, likely buttercups, with a bright sunburst effect in the upper center. The sunburst is a bright white light with rays extending outwards, creating a lens flare effect. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a field of grass and other plants. The overall mood is bright and cheerful.

Sunlight

Sunlight

- Second only to soil.
- Always check the sunlight requirements of each plant.
 - Universal symbols on plant tags.
 - Not always reliable.
 - If you really want a plant to work, look up each individual plant.



Sunlight

- Full Sun =
 - minimum 6 hours, 8 hours usually recommended.
- Part Sun =
 - 3 - 6 hours direct sunlight
- Full Shade =
 - Less than 3 hours direct sunlight.
- Few plants do well in complete shade with no sunlight.



Sunlight

- Planting outside of recommended sunlight:
- Sun plants in shade:
 - Will flower less or not at all.
 - Greater incidence of plant disease
 - In extreme cases, plant will die out slowly.
- Shade plants in sun:
 - Leaves will burn.
 - Plants typically die quickly.



Watering



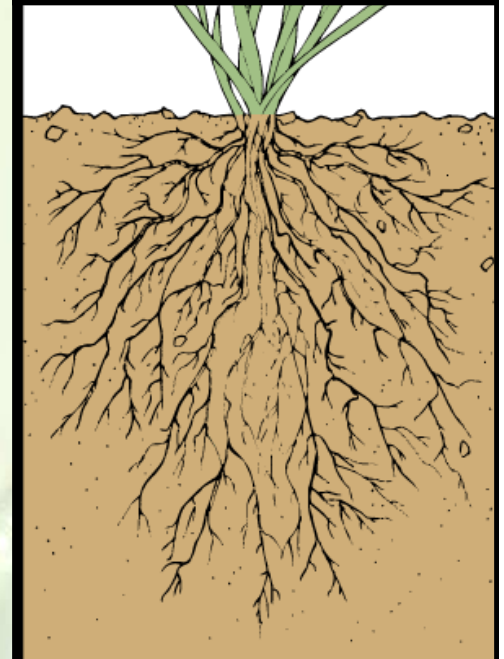
Watering

- Not as important as sunlight and soil.
- Plants in your garden for more than one season:
 - Only need extra watering in times of drought.
- Plants in your garden for less than one season:
 - Need extra care to establish properly.



'Establishing'

- 'Establishing':
 - Term for a plant growing a large root system.
- Large root system:
 - Allows plant to resist environmental stress:
 - Drought
 - Extreme winters
 - Ect.
 - Many roots can take up and store a maximum amount of nutrients and water.



Watering

- Key to establishing a new plant:
 - Watering.
- Water ~ once a week.
 - Heavy rainfall = do not need to water.
 - Drought = water as often as needed to keep plants from wilting.
- How do you know if you've watered enough?
 - 'Finger test': sticking a finger in the soil should reveal wet soil for 2-3 inches.





Fertilizer!

Fertilizer

- N-P-K
 - N: Nitrogen: leaf growth
 - P: Phosphorus: flower production
 - K: Potassium: root production and immune system.
- Higher numbers = more concentrated.
 - Can hurt plants if you're not careful.
- Equal numbers = for overall growth.
 - Higher proportions of one nutrient mean emphasis on that form of growth.



Fertilizer

- ‘Dissolving’ types:
 - Require you to make mixtures.
 - Most common.
 - Typically fertilize multiple times.
- Granular types:
 - Large grains.
 - Harder to find.
 - Have a coating which dissolves slowly, releasing fertilizer over the season.
 - Typically fertilize once.
- Granular types are best for beginners.





Container Gardening

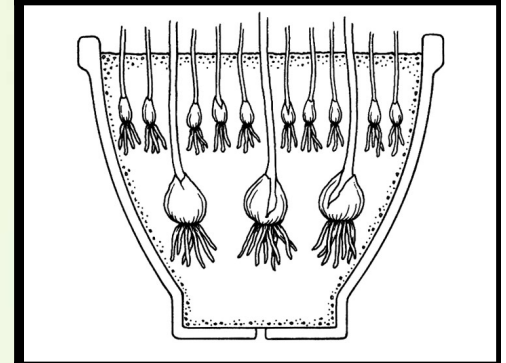
Container Gardening

- Great way to garden in limited space.
- Allows you to create your own conditions in your garden.
 - Any soil can be used.
 - Can be placed in any light conditions.
 - Beautiful arrangements can be made.
- Drawbacks:
 - Only annuals, most perennials will not survive winter.
 - Need more care.



Container Gardening

- Different rules than gardening in the backyard.
- Containers = self-contained ecosystems
 - You need to provide everything the plants need to survive.



Container Gardening

- Soil:
 - Soil specific to container gardening.
 - Has lots of fertilizer and water-retention materials.
- Watering:
 - Containers **MUST** have drainage holes.
 - Containers must be watered when they dry
 - May be as often as once a day!
- Fertilizing:
 - Fertilizer in soil may not be enough.
 - Regular flowering plant fertilizer.





**Annuals in
the Gardens**

Annuals vs. Perennials

- Annual:
 - A plant which only grows for one season in our climate.
 - Some 'annual' plants here are actually perennials in warmer climates!
- Perennials:
 - Emphasis on long term care.
- Annuals:
 - Emphasis on short term performance.



Planting Annuals

- Want maximum nutrition at planting for best root growth and flowering.
- Magic mixture:
 - 70% Black Earth.
 - 30% Peat moss.
 - Hand full of compost.
 - Mix together with lots of water until you have an earth 'soup'.
- Planting method very similar to perennials.

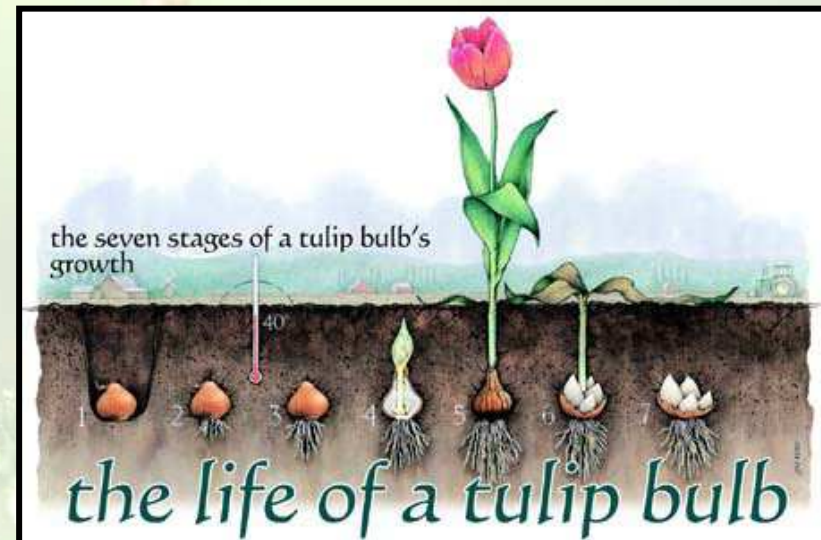




**Planting
Tulip Bulbs**

Planting Tulip Bulbs

- Many different bulb species, most similar.
- Not all colors are as hardy:
 - Simply colors most hardy, complex colors with different flower shapes are 'hybrids', not hardy.
- Essential:
 - Proper fertilizer
 - Well drained soil
 - Digging up bulbs once a year

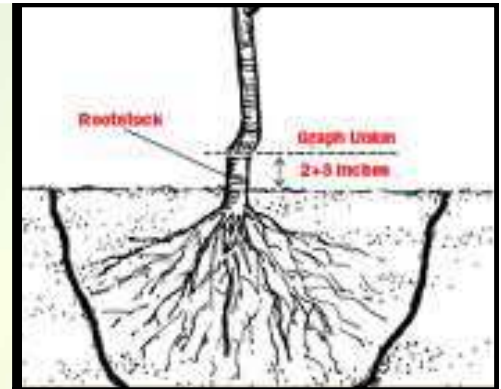




**Planting
Trees**

Planting Trees

- Trees with soil on their roots:
 - Planted similarly to perennials.
- ‘Bareroot’ trees:
 - Need more care.
- Three keys to successful trees:
 - Watch the graft line.
 - Dig a hole as wide as the branches.
 - Water regularly to establish.





**Gardening
Tricks**



Edging





Black Topsoil





After

Before



**Yearly
Application of
Compost**



Take Home Notes

**Gardening is not a science, it's
an art.**

**Start slowly, master each thing
at a time.**

Have Fun!



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Thank You.