



# Notes with Answers for Herbaceous Ornamentals Module

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## Introduction

How are herbaceous and woody plants different?

*In Wisconsin, woody plants have persistent stems throughout the year, whereas herbaceous plants will die down to the ground at the end of a growing season.*

## Annuals

Define annuals.

*Complete lifecycle in a single growing season.*

Name some advantages of using annuals in the landscape.

- *Annuals are very colorful. The flowers or foliage provide instant color that continues throughout the growing season.*
- *Many are easy to source as transplants or start from seed.*
- *Gardeners can change their garden's appearance easily from year to year.*
- *Annuals can be used to fill in gaps as perennial plants fill in or spring bulbs die back.*
- *Long bloom times*

Name some disadvantages of using annuals in the landscape.

- *Annuals must be planted each year.*
- *Require more maintenance.*



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## Perennials

Define perennials.

*A plant that lives for more than two years.*

Name some advantages of using perennials in the landscape.

- *You do not need to replant them each year.*
- *Perennials come in a wide assortment of shapes, colors, and textures that can provide the landscape with changing interest throughout the year.*

Name some disadvantages of using perennials in the landscape.

- *Require maintenance, such as dividing or deadheading.*
- *Have shorter bloom time than annuals.*
- *May reseed or spread beyond the area where you want them.*
- *Take several years to establish.*
- *Cost more initially.*

## Selecting perennials

When selecting perennials to add to a landscape, what are some key factors the gardener should consider?

- *The conditions required to thrive, including light and moisture requirements*
- *The characteristics of the plant, including size, form, growth habits, bloom color and period*
- *Consider the ease or difficulty of maintaining the chosen plants.*