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**NURSERY, GARDEN CENTER, GREENHOUSE & PATIO**

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**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**ANNUAL** – plants that flower almost continuously through the season, and die off as temperatures cool, traditionally used in containers, hanging baskets, and bedding areas in the garden.

**BIENNIAL** – a plant that follows a two year cycle from seed germination; in the first year, a rosette of leaves is formed and holds through winter; in the second year, the rosette will produce flower stalks, which will then set seed if pollinated, seeds are scattered to begin the cycle again the following year; some classic examples of biennials include foxglove, hollyhock, verbascum, and mullein.

**PERENNIAL** – a plant that typically lasts at least 3 years in the garden coming back each year from a hardy root system, sometimes dying back to the ground each winter (like a peony or daylily), sometimes developing a woody substructure (like lavender or Russian sage).

**CLIMATE ZONE** – in reference to a larger map dividing the continent into 13 latitudinal bands, or zones, according to average lowest temperatures within each zone; plants are then assigned hardiness zones according to their lowest temperature tolerances.

**CLAY** – composed of very fine mineral particles with very little space between, creating a dense heavy soil without much porosity, the solution to clay soil is adding organic matter or compost and mixing it into the clay.

**COMPOST** – organic material in a state of decomposition, freeing up available nutrients and microorganisms for plants to put to use, used as a soil additive when planting, can be made at home in the garden using many different methods.

**CULTIVAR/VARIETY** – can be equated to “flavor”, usually indicating specific colors or habits within the same species; Hibiscus moscheutos is the species, and varieties include “Luna Red”, “Berry Awesome”, or “Mars Madness”.

**DEADHEADING/GOING TO SEED** – deadheading is the act of removing flowers from a plant as they begin to fade, before they begin to form seed; by keeping up with the removal of faded flowers and preventing seeds from being formed, we can trick some plants into blooming for a much longer period of time; once a plant has started to set seed, it is somewhat unlikely that more flowers are one.

**DROUGHT TOLERANT** – in reference to a plants ability to go for periods without supplemental irrigation; there is a wide sliding scale of drought tolerance, whereby there are some plants that require zero supplemental irrigation once established, while others may appreciate a deep drink every few weeks .

**EXPOSURE –** in reference to the amount of sun or shade a plant may receive given a specific location

**FULL SUN** – 6+ hours of exposure to direct sun

**PART SUN** – 3-5 hours of exposure to direct sun

**SHADE** – less than 3 hours of exposure to direct sun

**SHELTERED/PROTECTED** – in describing an area in the landscape or garden which affords shelter or protection from severe weather elements, including high winds, precipitation, or sun.

**HARD PRUNE/CUT BACK** – the act of cutting a plant back to its base/basal foliage, similar to hitting the “reset” button.

**HARDENING OFF** – a process of gradually exposing a new/young plant to the sun, wind and fluctuating temperatures, usually done over the course of a week or so.

**HARDINESS** – in reference to a plant’s cold tolerance, usually measured as a range of climate zones where the plant can grow; Stella D’Oro Daylily has a hardiness of Z 2-9, meaning it will grow successfully within those climate zones.

**HYDROZONE –** the practice of grouping plants together in a garden or landscape that have similar water needs, in an effort to maximize water use efficiency. Natives and other drought tolerant plants placed farther away from the water source, while thirstier plants may be grouped closer to water source or lawns.

**MICROCLIMATE** – a place in the garden/landscape with unique surroundings that affect an immediate area, sometimes allowing for unique or otherwise unsuited plants; the southwest face of a boulder will create a warmer soil environment than the north side, especially in the winter; a planting area next to a water feature will have slightly higher humidity than surrounding areas away from the water.

**MULCH** – organic and inorganic options, used for moisture retention, erosion control, winter protection or decorative purposes.

**MYCORRHIZAE** – naturally occurring beneficial fungi found in soils as well as most garden centers, forms a symbiotic relationship as it colonizes a plant’s root system putting out super fine hairlike structures, aiding in the efficacy of water and nutrient uptake, in return, the plant supplies the fungi with sugars.

**NATIVE** – in refence to the origins of a plant; can be in reference at the state or continental level; Tall Western Sagebrush is a Colorado native, whereas Eastern Redbud is a North American native.

**REJUVENATION PRUNE** – a pruning practice involving cutting back an entire shrub down to the ground. Hitting the “reset” button, allows the plant to start over. Not every plant can handle this practice, here are a few that benefit from regular rejuvenation pruning in early spring: Caryopteris, Russian Sage, Butterfly Bush, Japanese Spirea.

**RENEWAL PRUNE** – a pruning practice that involves removing/thinning about 1/3 of the oldest, thickest stems down to the base of the plant. Over the course of 3-4 years, the entire shrub will have been renewed, as each year, the oldest stems are removed. Lilacs, Viburnums, Red Twig Dogwoods, Rose of Sharon, Ninebark, and many other clumping or suckering type shrubs benefit.

**ROOT BALL –** compact mass of roots and soil held together at the base of a plant.

**ROOTBOUND** – when a plant is grown in a container, the roots will begin to circle the around the sidewalls of the pot once they’ve grown outward from the center. If left in the pot for too long, the plant will have very dense circling roots can create problems if they are not corrected (removed) at the time of planting.

**TENDER/MARGINAL** – in reference to the newest/softest growth on a plant which has not “hardened off” yet; can also refer to hardiness, a plant with a hardiness zone that is on the cusp of current climate zone; for example, a zone 6 plant may be considered “marginally hardy” or a “tender perennial” for our zone 5 climate.

**THINNING** – a method of pruning involving the removal of a portion of a plant from the base, usually no more than 1/3 taken out at a time, aids in air circulation, light penetration, and vitality.

**WELL DRAINING** – a soil texture/composition which allows water to pass through, without becomingg muddy or compacted; amendments to add drainage include compost, claybuster, expanded shale.

**XERIC/XERISCAPE** – a term coined by Denver Water to describe a method of landscape design utilizing water conserving techniques including drought tolerant plants, mulches, grading topography, and efficient irrigation where necessary.