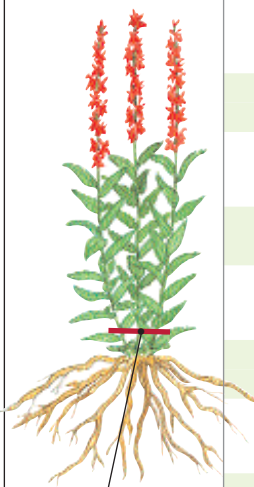


The secret to long-lasting color — Deadheading

BEFORE YOU CUT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Plant name	Cold/heat zones	Will it rebloom?	Tips to get the most out of your plants
Astilbe <i>Astilbe</i> spp.	4-8/8-1	No	Deadheading won't stimulate more flowers so leave seedheads standing for late-season interest; when they look ratty, cut them to the ground
Baby's breath <i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	5-8/8-1	Yes	Cut panicles of spent flowers to side shoots to keep this perennial flowering longer; shear stems to the ground after they finish to promote second, smaller flush of fall flowers
Balloon flower <i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	4-9/9-1	Yes	Prolong bloom and keep the plants fresh by removing individual spent flowers; stems are tough — use small scissors and dip them in alcohol to clean the sticky sap; reseeds
Bear's breech <i>Acanthus</i> spp.	5-9/9-1	No	Leave the spent flowers standing — they remain interesting for several weeks; later, cut them to the basal rosette of foliage if they look objectionable
Bee balm <i>Monarda didyma</i>	4-9/9-1	No	Cut spent blooms back to side buds to prolong blooming; after it's finished flowering, cut stems down to 4 or 5 in. to promote mounds of clean, healthy foliage; rarely reblooms
Bergenia <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	3-8/8-1	No	Cut flower stems off at the ground after flowering to keep the plant looking tidy; will not reflower; rarely reseeds
Bellflower, peachleaf <i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	3-8/8-1	Yes	Pinch off individual flowers as they fade; cut entire stalk back to within 6 in. of the ground when it's finished to encourage rebloom; releases a sticky sap as you prune
Blanket flower <i>Gaillardia xgrandiflora</i>	3-8/8-1	Yes	Snip off individual flowers a few inches below the seed head to prolong bloom; later cut stems to within 6 in. of the ground; stop deadheading in August
Bleeding heart, fernleaf <i>Dicentra</i> spp.	3-9/9-1	Yes	Cut the flower stems down to basal mound of foliage after they're finished to keep this perennial flowering into autumn; can reseed
Bleeding heart, fringed <i>Dicentra formosa</i>	4-8/8-1	Yes	Keep up with removing spent flower stems down to the foliage and this perennial can continue to bloom into fall; does not die back like old-fashioned bleeding heart
Brunnera <i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	3-8/8-1	No	Cut flowering stems with small leaves down to 2 or 3 in. after they flower to prevent reseeding; leave basal foliage developing in the center of the clump; will not rebloom
Bugbane <i>Actaea racemosa</i>	3-8/8-1	No	Leave seedpods on plant to add winter interest or cut them off to uppermost set of leaves, leaving as much foliage as possible to feed the plant; will not rebloom
Cardinal flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	3-9/9-1	Yes	Cutting down spent spikes 2 to 3 in. from the ground will sometimes promote a small rebloom; short-lived so allow a few seeds to ripen or ground layer a stem or two
Catmint <i>Nepeta</i> spp.	4-8/8-1	Yes	Cut stems down to 2 or 3 in. after flowering to keep plant looking neat; may or may not reflower after deadheading; deadheading will prevent reseeding
Columbine <i>Aquilegia</i> spp.	3-8/8-1	Yes	Snip off spent flowers to side stems to keep columbines blooming; cut entire stem to the ground when finished; allow some seedheads to ripen to ensure replacement plants
Coral bells <i>Heuchera</i> hybrids	4-8/8-1	Yes	Cut flowering stems below the low mound of foliage as they finish; deadheading will extend the flowering and sometimes promote a smaller second flowering
Daylily <i>Hemerocallis</i> hybrids	3-10/10-1	Yes	Snap off spent flowers as they wilt to keep the later flowers as large as possible; once the stem is finished, cut it to the ground; some cultivars rebloom, others do not
Delphinium <i>Delphinium elatum</i>	3-7/7-1	Yes	Pinch off spent flowers along the stems; cut the finished spikes to a leaf bud to encourage smaller side shoots; cut to basal foliage when all flowers are done; often reblooms
Dianthus <i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i>	3-9/9-1	No	Some cultivars reseed, so deadhead as soon as the flowers fade; remove spent stems but leave the clump of foliage

Cardinal flower



Cut spent spikes 2 to 3 in. from ground.

Deadheading *continued*

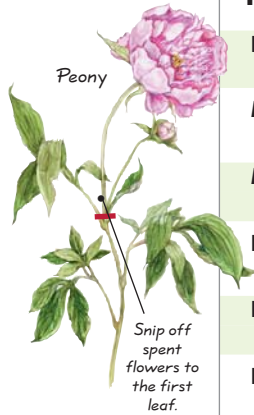
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Foamflower <i>Tiarella</i> spp. and hybrids	4-9/9-1	Yes	Some will rebloom after deadheading; cut or pinch off entire stem down into the low mound of foliage to improve appearance
Foxglove <i>Digitalis</i> spp.	3-8/8-1	Yes	Pinch off individual flowers along the stem; remove stems to the basal rosette of leaves when most of the flowers are finished; may rebloom later with smaller flowers; may reseed
Gas plant <i>Dictamnus albus</i>	3-9/9-1	No	Cut seed heads down to foliage after flowering, or leave star-shaped seed pots for late-season interest; will not reflower with deadheading; can reseed
Gaura <i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	5-9/9-1	Yes	Flowers much of the summer without deadheading on stems that just keep branching; cut out stems that have bloomed to reduce reseeding; cutting encourages more branching
Geum <i>Geum</i> hybrids	5-9/9-1	No	Can flower much longer with deadheading; cut spent flowers back to budded side branches; later remove the entire stem to the low mound of foliage
Globe thistle <i>Echinops ritro</i>	3-9/9-1	Yes	Cut spent flowers to a side branch to keep the plant flowering as long as possible; cut entire stems to basal foliage when finished; late rebloom with smaller flowers
Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i> spp.	5-9/9-1	Yes	Deadhead first and largest flowering back to healthy foliage to promote smaller second flowering from side buds; cut all seedheads to prevent reseeding
Hardy geranium <i>Geranium</i> spp.	4-9/9-1	Yes	Hard to deadhead individual flowers, so cut tall cultivars to 2 or 3 in. after most of the flowers have finished; cut low spreaders back to 4 to 6 in.; some species rebloom
Hardy hibiscus <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	5-10/10-1	No	Pluck off spent flowers daily to keep the plant looking tidy and keep it flowering as large and as long as possible; this also prevents reseeding; cut dead stems down in spring
Heliopsis <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	3-9/9-1	No	Don't cut off all the spent flowers—goldfinches are fond of the seeds; reseeds, so you might want to remove some of the seed heads; will not rebloom after deadheading
Hellebore <i>Helleborus</i> spp.	4-9/9-1	No	Pinch off spent flowers with fingers or small scissors to prevent reseeding; deadheading will not cause the plant to reflower
Hollyhock <i>Alcea rosea</i>	4-7/7-1	Yes	Pinch off spent flowers along the stem as they wilt; leave a few flowers to reseed; cut stem to basal foliage once all the flowers have finished; may rebloom on short stems
Iris, bearded <i>Iris</i> hybrids	4-9/9-1	No	Pinch off spent flowers before they form seedpods; cut entire stem to the foliage fan after all flowers have faded to keep the plant looking neat and tidy
Iris, Siberian <i>Iris sibirica</i>	4-9/9-1	No	Pinch or cut off flowers as they wither to keep the plant looking tidy and prevent seed formation; remove entire stem down into foliage when all flowers are finished
Jacob's ladder <i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	4-8/8-1	Yes	Cut entire plant back to 2 or 3 in. to encourage new growth and keep it looking fresh; let a few pods ripen to replace the short-lived parent plant; often reblooms with deadheading
Joe-pye weed <i>Eupatorium</i> spp.	2-9/9-1	No	Will not reflower if deadheaded; can reseed; leave spent flowers standing for later season and winter interest if you want; cut stems to the ground in spring with pruning shears
Jupiter's beard <i>Centranthus ruber</i>	5-8/8-1	Yes	As the flowers fade, cut back to side shoots; prolific seeder if not deadheaded; often reblooms if spent stems are cut down to 3 or 4 in. after they flower
Lavender <i>Lavandula</i> spp.	5-8/8-1	Yes	Harvest flowers with stems; cut entire plant back to healthy foliage to promote a second flowering; rebloom is shorter than first; harvest late flowers, leaving foliage
Lily <i>Lilium</i> hybrid	5-8/8-1	No	Pinch or cut individual flowers as they fade; leave foliage until it yellows to supply food for the bulb; always try to leave as many leaves as possible; will not rebloom
Lungwort <i>Pulmonaria</i> spp.	4-8/8-1	No	Cut away flowering stems to tidy up the plant after they fall to the side, exposing the new mound of foliage in the center; will not rebloom; can reseed; prickly stems — wear gloves



Deadheading *continued*

BEFORE YOU CUT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Plant name	Cold/heat zones	Will it rebloom?	Tips to get the most out of your plants
Lupine <i>Lupinus</i> hybrids	4-8/8-1	Yes	After spring flowering, cut stems to small emerging buds along stems to promote second flowering; reseeds but seedlings vary in color; cutting back also controls aphids
Mountain bluet <i>Centaurea montana</i>	3-8/8-1	Yes	Cut spent flowers back to side shoots; trim stems down to 2 to 3 in. after they're finished flowering; often reblooms; can reseed rampantly
Mullein <i>Verbascum</i> spp.	5-9/9-1	Yes	Cut main spike to side branches; cut entire plant to the ground after it blooms to stimulate late flowering; deadheading helps this biennial behave more like a perennial
Painted daisy <i>Tanacetum coccineum</i>	5-9/9-1	Yes	Snip individual flowers off to a main stem as they fade; when the stem is finished, cut it to the basal foliage to keep the plant looking fresh; small sporadic rebloom
Peony <i>Paeonia</i> spp. and hybrids	3-8/8-1	No	Snip off spent flowers back to the first leaf to keep the plant looking tidy; leave as much foliage as possible to feed the plant
Penstemon <i>Penstemon barbatus</i>	4-9/9-1	No	Deadhead to side buds or branches to prolong flowering; cut stems down to the ground when finished blooming; usually will not rebloom
Pincushion flower <i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	3-7/7-1	Yes	Pick off spent flowers before seeds form; cut entire stems to basal rosette when finished to prolong blooming; note difference between buds and seed heads — they look similar
Purple coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	3-9/9-1	Yes	Reblooms fine even without deadheading; cutting off early blooms to a side shoot keeps later flowers larger; leave a few seedheads for bird food unless reseeding is a problem
Salvia <i>Salvia nemerosa</i>	4-9/9-1	Yes	Deadheading promotes a long bloom period; snip off spikes to side branches; cut stems back to the basal foliage to encourage a late-summer rebloom
Shasta daisy <i>Leucanthemum xsuperbum</i>	5-8/8-1	Yes	Deadhead spent blooms to side shoots to keep this perennial blooming almost all summer; cut spent stems down to 2 to 3 in. for smaller rebloom
Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i>	4-8/8-1	Yes	Snip spent flower heads only down to foliage to force side branches to develop and bloom; will continue to bloom until freezing weather if deadheaded
Speedwell <i>Veronica spicata</i>	3-8/8-1	Yes	To prolong the bloom, cut spent flower spike back to side branches; once finished, cut entire stem down to the ground; may produce a small rebloom later
Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia Andersoniana</i> Group	5-9/9-1	Yes	After all of the buds in a cluster have finished, cut the stems back to a side shoot or leaf axil for more flowers; if the plant looks ratty, cut it back by half to encourage rebloom
Spike blazing star <i>Liatris spicata</i>	4-9/9-1	Yes	Cut stems back to the top of the foliage after the flowers fade; smaller second flowers may sprout from the stem or near the ground; if not deadheaded birds will feast on the seeds
Stoke's aster <i>Stokesia laevis</i>	5-9/9-1	Yes	Deadhead spent flowers to a side bud to prolong flowering; when flowers finish, remove stems to the ground; may rebloom; look carefully — buds and seed heads look similar
Tall garden phlox <i>Phlox paniculata</i>	4-8/8-1	No	Snip off spent flower clusters; flowering side branches develop; deadhead to the ground when it's finished blooming; seedlings will revert to less desirable colors
Tall sedum <i>Sedum spectabile</i>	3-10/10-1	No	No need to deadhead; leave seedheads standing for winter interest and wildlife or harvest them for dried arrangements; cut stems down in spring as new growth starts
Threadleaf coreopsis <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	4-9/9-1	Yes	Use scissors or hedge clippers to shear plants to the ground in August to stimulate September and October rebloom; deadheading also helps prevent reseeding
Tickseed <i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	4-9/9-1	Yes	Frequent deadheading will keep the plant blooming almost all summer; cut the flower stems back to side branches; eventually remove all spent stems to the ground
Turtlehead <i>Chelone lyonii</i>	3-8/8-1	No	No need to deadhead because this late-blooming plant has seed pods that add winter interest; if seed heads look objectionable, cut them back to healthy foliage