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Herbaceous perennials are grown primarily for their colourful flowers and foliage. Unlike annuals, which die after one season, herbaceous perennials grow their soft stems in the spring and die back in late autumn or early winter. Their roots store nutrients created over the growing season and survive below ground during winter, ready for spring growth.

If you buy your herbaceous perennial in the colder months, you may not see what you were expecting. You may even think that you have an empty pot! Don't worry, it's just that the plant has died back to the roots and if you plant it immediately and look after it, the stems will regrow in the spring.

Here is a guide to what you might find in the pot during the year.

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
												

Aftercare advice

- Water after planting your herbaceous perennial (also dunk it in water before planting to make sure that it is wet through) and regularly during the first year, especially during dry periods;
- Putting compost or bark chippings around the base of the plant will help to discourage weeds, prevent water loss and keep the roots cool;
- Cut off dead flowers when they fade because this will lengthen the flowering period of most varieties;
- When the plants die down in the autumn, remove any dead stems or leaves;
- Feed each spring with a general purpose fertiliser (the container will recommend the correct amount) and your perennials will return bigger and better each year.

Our full range of herbaceous perennials will grow and flower at different times. If you have any queries about the quality of your plant, please send a photograph to:

ask@simplygogardening.co.uk

