

# Perennial Garden

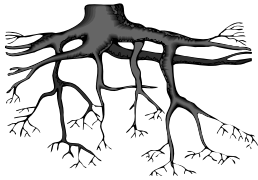


Perennials are plants that live more than three years, but when most people say “perennial,” they mean an herbaceous perennial, which die back every winter, and then grow each spring. Perennials bring wonderful colors and fragrances to the garden. Because there are many types of perennials that flower at different seasons, perennial gardens are always changing. That’s why they’re so interesting!

Plants grow in a variety of shapes and sizes but most plants have similar parts: **roots, stems, leaves, and flowers.** Each of these parts serves as an important function for the plant.

## ROOTS

- Absorb and store water and minerals
- Keep the plant in place
- Roots can grow in many shapes and sizes. They can be a thick taproot or a network of fibers below ground, in air, or in water.



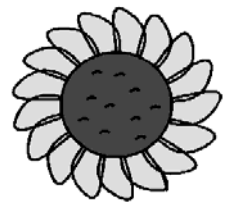
## STEMS

- Move water and minerals up from the roots
- Transport food made in the leaves throughout the plant
- Support the plant above ground
- Store water and food.
- Stems can be short and flexible or tall and stiff.



## LEAVES

- Make food for the plant through photosynthesis -where light energy transforms air and water into simple sugars.
- Leaves can be simple, compound, round, heart-shaped, pointed, lobed, jagged, smooth, waxy, fuzzy, large, or small.



## FLOWERS

- Help make new plants by producing seeds.
- Some flowers bloom singly, some bloom in clusters, some look like stars, some look like bells, and some are so small you can barely see them.
- Flowers that are big, showy or fragrant attract pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, bats, hummingbirds, flies, and ants. Smaller, odorless flowers depend on wind pollination.

## Observation Inquiries

- Identify the parts of a variety of plants.
  - Gently feel the leaves of different plants to compare textures.
  - Carefully look for exposed roots. How might they look underground?
- What are the similarities and differences in color, shape, and size of the stems of different plants?
  - Smell and compare the fragrance of different flowers.
- Record how many different kinds of flowers, stems and roots you found.