

# Cleaning up perennials in spring



As the days lengthen and warm in late April, perennials will begin to emerge and after the threat of severe cold (less than 25 degrees or so) has passed, you can get out and clean last year's growth away from your perennials.

We're using this daylily as an example but this technique is mostly universal for cleaning up perennials. Some dead material may need to be cut with pruners or scissors. An example of this is ornamental grasses.



Start by removing old flowering stalks.



Now pull away the old foliage.



Keep at it. Those emerging plants are pretty tough but try not to damage them. Save the old material for the compost heap.



Done! This is also the time to pull back any mulch that may be touching the plant and to inspect for rot or damage caused by animals or insects. Wait to re-mulch until the soil is thoroughly warmed around the first of June. This is the time to apply granular fertilizer.

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