What does that gardening term mean?

Annuals

Plants that last for one season. They grow from seed, flower and then die within 12 months.

Hardy Annuals

These plants can stand the cold and be sown outdoors in spring. However they only last for one season and either die after flowering and setting seed or are thrown away like bedding plants.

Half Hardy Annuals

These plants need warmth for germination and should not be planted out until after the last frost. They keep growing until they are killed by the first frost of autumn.

Biennials

These are plants sown one year then flower the next. They are usually pulled up after flowering.

Perennials

These are plants that die down over winter and grow up again the following spring.

Hardy Perennials

These are plants that die down over winter and grow up again the following spring. These usually need digging up and dividing every three to five years.

Half Hardy Perennials

These plants live for years but won't survive frost. They need to be taken into a greenhouse over winter in order for them to grow up again the following spring.

Herbaceous

These are non-woody plants that die down to soil level in the winter.

Shrubs

These are plants with many woody stems rising from ground level.

Bedding Plants

These are display plants in beds or containers. They are usually pulled up after flowering to make room for other plants.

Deciduous Plants

These are plants that lose their leaves every year in autumn and replace them in spring.

Evergreen

These plants keep their leaves all year round although they do shed old leaves a few times throughout the year.

Semi-Evergreen

These plants keep their leaves through a mild winter or in a sheltered location, but shed them in cold winters.

Variegated

A plant with leaves of 2 or more colours.

Alpine

A plant suitable for a rock garden.

Ericaceous

Acid loving / lime hating plants.

Frost Hardy

A plant that is able to withstand temperatures down to -5°C (23°F).

Frost Tender

A plant which may be damaged by temperatures below 5°C (41°F).

Succulent

A plant with fleshy leaves, roots or stems which are adapted for storing water.

Espalier

Usually fruit trees grown with pairs of branches trained horizontally from the central stem.

Plant Feeds

N - Nitrogen: Promotes leaf and shoot growth • P - Phosphorus: Encourages root development • K - Potassium: Also known as Potash, promotes fruit and flower production

Foliar Feeds

Usually diluted fertilizer solutions, which are applied directly to the plants leaves.

Herbicide

Chemical treatment used to control or eradicate weeds, more commonly known as 'weed killer'.

Insecticide

Chemical treatment used to control or eradicate insect pests.

Pesticide

General term for a chemical treatment used to control or eradicate pests, diseases or weeds.

Systemic

A type of chemical that is absorbed into the plants system and therefore attacks problems from within.

A glossary of gardening terms to make life easier to understand...

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