**Perennials to trim in the Fall**

If you can muster up the patience, wait until a few rounds of hard frost have passed before you trim back, just to make sure that your perennials have really gone dormant.

Daylilies

It’s better to let daylilies die back on their own, and only then intervene by pruning off the dead leaves at about four to six inches above the crown.

Hostas

Trim your hostas down to about three inches above the crown. You can wait for the first frost or do it as soon as the leaves have turned brown (or whichever comes first). While you’re at it, manually inspect the plant and remove any sign of slugs and their eggs.

Bearded irises

You should leave the foliage on all throughout the summer because it’s the main way for the iris rhizome to gather the energy it needs to overwinter and produce flowers next spring. In fact, premature pruning [may lead to your iris not blooming the following season](https://www.bloomingbackyard.com/iris-not-blooming/). Your iris is ready for pruning after the first frost when the foliage has wilted and turned brown.

Peonies

With peonies, you can wait until the leaves turn yellow or wait until the first frost has passed to trim if you like the look of yellow foliage in the fall. Gather the stems of the peonies a handful at a time and trim them off to about three inches above the level of the soil.

Bee Balm ( Monarda)

Prune it down to about three to five inches above soil level to give it a boost to come back stronger next year.

Summer Phlox

garden phlox will die back quite late in the season, so that’s when you’ll know it’s a good time to trim it back to about three inches above soil level.

Catmint (Nepeta)

Unlike most of the other plants on this list, nepeta will already start growing next year’s stems by the end of the year, so be careful when you prune it not to remove new growth. Trim back the yellowing stems while avoiding the grayish-green ones.

Japanese Anemone

Once the first frost hits, the foliage of the Japanese anemones will turn dark brown; once this happens you can cut it down to about four inches above soil level.

Yarrow ( Achillea)

When you prune them in the fall, try to trim the old stalk down to the basal clump without interfering with the new growth. You can prune yarrow to a couple of inches above soil level.