NEWS RELEASE

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High Country Gardens' Video Shows DIY Gardeners How to Save Time Adding Value to Their Homes

David Salman of High Country Gardens recommends planting perennials and shares his unfailing tips for ensuring perpetual blooms season after season.

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SANTA FE, N.M. — For homeowners and property managers wishing to beautify their parcels and augment the market value of their investments, flowering perennials — plants that endure for more than one growing season — provide a permanent, low-care, eye-catching landscape.

"Perennials have become much more popular recently because they don't need replanting," says David Salman, founder and chief horticulturist of High Country Gardens, the industry leader in nationally distributed waterwise plants and grasses. "They're big time and labor savers, and they're showier and more unusual than some of the more common annuals," he says, referring to plants that, unlike perennials, only thrive and bloom for one season, requiring gardeners to re-invest time and money each year for their cultivation. Examples of popular annuals include marigolds and pansies, which Salman says gardeners may need to plant twice in one season. "So you can see how perennials not only save time but money as well," he says.

In response to the growing trend of do-it-yourself home improvement and landscaping, High Country Gardens has opened a YouTube channel, hcgvid, to help novice and experienced gardeners establish their plants correctly from the start, an especially important measure in the case of perennials.

Of all the steps featured in Salman's six-minute how-to video, "Planting Perennials," Salman says that scratching out the roots of the plants is the most important, and also the most likely for gardeners to neglect when transplanting them from pot to bed. For long-lived perennials, good rooting in the first season guarantees the plants will reach their full size and potential during their second growing season.

"Perennials are all about the roots," Salman says. "That's what keeps them coming back each season. If you don't score the roots a little, they tend to hold the shape of the pot and won't break out of the root ball."

Salman points to High Country Gardens' new exclusive perennial for 2011, *Agastache* 'Blue Blazes' — a hummingbird mint — as an astute example of the true potential of perennials when planted correctly. "Blue Blazes,' a deep-root perennial, tripled in size in its second season," he says, referring to the plant he monitored in development in his Santa Fe greenhouses.

Anticipating the rooting needs of perennials and other plants is one of the reasons High Country Gardens offers its deep-root varieties in specially designed premium deep pots with vertical ribs, which direct the roots downward instead of allowing them to spiral horizontally, like most round containers do.

High Country Gardens is an award-winning source for waterwise, native and adapted plants. The nationally recognized mail-order catalog is available online at www.highcountrygardens.com, or by calling 1-800-925-9387. In the Albuquerque area, visit the new location at 6921 Pan American Freeway NE, or call 505-867-8585.

High Country Gardens' press releases are also available on PRWeb.

