

# MEL'S

*where home and garden come together*

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Mel's Nursery offers a large variety of high quality plants suitable to a wide range of garden situations. This glossary describes the terms we use in our signs and informational handouts. We hope these clarifications provide you with useful definitions you can use in your landscape planning and maintenance.

### ANNUAL

A plant that is not normally winter-hardy, surviving only one season. The primary advantage of annuals is their long season of prolific, flashy color lasting from spring through fall.

### SPECIALTY ANNUAL

An annual that is an outstanding, unusual or a rare variety. It will be distinguished from the more common, popular varieties and cultivars.

### BIENNIAL

These are plants that usually live two years. They sprout and grow foliage the first year and then bloom, produce seeds and die in their second year.

### PERENNIAL

A non-woody plant, normally winter-hardy, that returns every year without replanting. Perennials provide interesting foliar textures and exceptional seasonal color as well. Many perennials remain evergreen throughout the year.

### TENDER PERENNIAL/TENDER SHRUB

A woody or non-woody plant that will survive some, but not all, of our winter low temperatures. These are grown primarily for their exotic flowers, interesting foliage and long lasting color.

### ORNAMENTAL GRASS

A winter-hardy grass or grass-like plant that is grown primarily for foliage texture and its summer and fall flower display. Most ornamental grasses are deciduous with a few remaining evergreen in the winter.

### BROADLEAFED EVERGREEN SHRUB

A woody plant with leaves (instead of needles) that remains evergreen throughout the year.

### CONIFER

A plant with needles or scale-like foliage that characteristically bears cones as its fruit or reproductive body. Most conifers are evergreen with only a few exceptions.