



Your legacy will change lives

As the UK's only charity dedicated to helping people working in horticulture, every gift left to us will make a lasting difference to all those who nurture and care for our country's beautiful gardens and green spaces.



Helping people
in horticulture
Perennial



“ Thank you for your interest in supporting our wonderful charity with a gift in your will.

Perennial really can be a life-line for gardeners and all those working in, or retired from, horticulture when they need a helping hand. By providing free and confidential advice, support and financial assistance to people of all ages, we offer invaluable short and long-term solutions that can have a huge impact – turning unmanageable situations into manageable ones.

But to do this we rely on the generosity of friends such as yourself. The gifts our supporters leave in their wills accounts for half the charity's fundraising income and it is only because of such legacies that we are able to help people overcome their challenges and work towards a brighter future.

This booklet explains how you can be a part of our life-changing work. It includes information about how to include a gift in your will, what your gift can achieve and looks to answer some key questions you may have.

Please do whatever you can to help the men and women who have devoted their lives to making and maintaining our green spaces.

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Thank you

Alan Titchmarsh MBE
President of Perennial

HOW YOUR GIFT WILL HELP

Perennial's pledge to all those we help is that we will continue to support them for as long as they need us.

This help can take on many different forms, as we are intent on reaching all those in need and firmly believe in providing tailored, one-to-one assistance to people who get in touch, including those who are:



OUR PROMISE

Your gift will be invested in the future of the only charity dedicated to looking after all those who care for our green spaces and their families.

Susie Gardener – Training



Single mum of two, Susie, gave up her job as a town planner to work as a gardener – a job which she hoped would give her more opportunity to be there for her young family.

After setting up her own business and starting out doing small gardening jobs, she soon realised that having a horticultural qualification would allow her to increase her salary, which in turn, would help create a more sustainable career and provide a better future for her children.

But as Susie found out, for people working in horticulture, and especially those who are self-employed, it can sometimes be difficult to find the money for professional development.

However, with support from Perennial, Susie was able to join an RHS Level 2 Certificate course, studying part-time and distance learning to fit in with family commitments – successfully achieving her qualification and in turn enhancing her skill set and career potential.

"The cost of enrolling onto a Royal Horticultural Society course was out of my reach but I had heard about the financial support available for career development through Perennial and the Professional Gardeners' Trust. I took the chance, applied, and was thrilled to be offered funding towards my course.

"After three years of studying I finally completed my qualification. It's taken me a bit longer than I had hoped but it's been worth it. I've nearly doubled my hourly wage and it's given me the confidence to get work in some incredible gardens as I now have the knowledge and skills."



CASE STUDY

INCLUDING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Writing a will gives you peace of mind that your wishes for your loved ones will be fulfilled, along with any decisions you make about what happens to your property, money and personal possessions.

This includes supporting a cause that matters to you. If you die without making a will i.e. intestate, the law will decide who inherits your estate.

We recommend you use an independent solicitor or a member of the Institute of Professional Willwriters to help you with this, as any information shared in this booklet acts as guidance only.



Paul Gardener – Teeside

For self-employed landscape gardener Paul, the onset of rheumatoid arthritis at only 50 years old left him in severe pain and unable to work. He had to move into an unfurnished, rented flat and had no money to afford the essentials; all whilst learning to live with a long-term disability.

With the charity's support to meet his immediate needs Paul soon had a bed, fridge and vouchers for food. This provided the much needed stability he needed to start looking to the future.

So, with help of his Perennial charity caseworker, Paul successfully applied for the social care and health benefits he was entitled to, was able to access a local occupational therapist and secured financial support to help adapt his home accordingly.

Paul now lives independently, in adapted accommodation, close to his family.

"Before I found Perennial I was struggling. When I became ill my relationship broke down and I moved into an unfurnished rented flat. I was finding that living with my disability was leaving me feeling more and more alone. I knew that moving 130 miles back to my hometown to be near my family would help but I thought it would be impossible to find suitable accommodation.

My Perennial caseworker knew exactly what to do... he immediately got me on the right housing priority band and waiting list. Within a couple of months, I had a flat around the corner from my dad, brother and sister in my hometown. I'm so grateful to have found Perennial – without them my disability would have destroyed my life. But now I have a life worth living."



TYPES OF LEGACY

There are 3 main types of gifts – also known as a legacy – you can leave in your Will.

1. A RESIDUARY GIFT:

A percentage of your estate once any specified gifts have been made to friends and family. Many of our supporters choose to leave this type of gift because its value will be dependent on the value of your estate at any given time rather than a set amount. This provides supporters with more flexibility when deciding how to ensure that their loved ones are well looked after first and foremost.

2. A PECUNIARY GIFT:

A specific amount of money. This is beneficial to charities as it allows services to be planned in advance and the flexibility to use the gift depending on the area of greatest need. It's worth bearing in mind that the effects of inflation mean that this type of gift can lose value over time and may end up being less than you initially intend.

3. A SPECIFIC GIFT:

A gift of a specified item – such as a personal possession, land, buildings or stocks and shares.

Perennial relies on such gifts – whatever the size – as every one helps us continue our work.



FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE YOUR WILL

STEP 1 – LIST YOUR ASSETS.

STEP
01

Look to list all your assets and an estimate of their value such as your property, car, shares, savings and other items of value you own. The total is known as your 'estate'. It's good to write down what you might owe too such as a mortgage or loan.

STEP 2 – WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO BENEFIT?

STEP
02

Make a list of those people and organisations – such as the charities you support – that you wish to remember in your will and what type of legacy you may wish to leave them.

STEP 3 – CHOOSE YOUR EXECUTORS.

STEP
03

You can have between one and four people responsible for ensuring that the wishes within your will are carried out. Most people choose their solicitor and/or family members they trust for this important role.

STEP 4 – ASK YOUR SOLICITOR.

STEP
04

You may have a lot of questions. Write these down before you organise an appointment to visit your chosen solicitor to help save both time and money.

STEP 5 – SIGN YOUR WILL.

STEP
05

When you are happy with the contents of your will, make sure that it is executed and witnessed properly. Your solicitor can advise you on this.

STEP 6 – KEEP IT SAFE & UP TO DATE.

STEP
06

Most keep a copy with their solicitor and in a safe place at home. You can update your will at any time e.g. if you sell your house, or on the death of a loved one. Your solicitor can advise you on the best way – either by re-writing it or by adding a codicil.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK PERENNIAL DOES?

We'll be happy to answer your questions over the phone or send you more detailed written information. You can also attend one of our legacy events, which often include lunch and a garden tour and are a great way to learn more about leaving a gift in your will to Perennial. Feel free to contact us – our details are on the back page of this booklet.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO LEAVE A GIFT TO CHARITY?

Leaving a gift in your will can be a simple and effective way of knowing that you are making a difference for the charity of your choice – whatever the size or type of gift you can leave.

HOW DO I CHOOSE A SOLICITOR?

We recommend that you use a solicitor to create your will. You can find one by contacting the Law Society on 020 7320 5650 or at www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor or the Institute of Professional Willwriters on 0345 257 2570 or at www.ipw.org.uk

WHAT IF MY FINANCES CHANGE?

One way to decide the size of gift which you would like to leave in your will is to choose a percentage. This means that if your finances decrease, the gift will not impact on any other decisions which you have included in your will. This also means that the value of your gift to charity will not be affected from inflation over time.

WHAT IF I WISH TO SUPPORT MORE THAN ONE CHARITY?

Of course, many people have several causes close to their heart, and often make provisions for more than one in their will. We recommend you talk to your solicitor or legal professional who will be best placed to advise you on supporting multiple charities when creating your will.

WOULD IT BE BETTER TO LEAVE YOU A GIFT NOW RATHER THAN LATER?

We are grateful for all of the gifts which we receive, and are happy to work with you whichever way you prefer to give.

WHAT IF I WANT TO KEEP THE DECISION TO MYSELF?

That's absolutely fine, and most people prefer not to inform charities they will receive a gift in a will. We understand that leaving a gift in your will is a personal choice and respect your decision to do so. However, if you do choose to tell us, you can do so by contacting us as detailed on the back of this booklet.





Thank You

for considering leaving a gift in your will to us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in contact with our Legacy Manager.

EMAIL: legacies@perennial.org.uk

VISIT: www.perennial.org.uk/legacies

OR WRITE TO

The Legacy Manager
Perennial
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Leatherhead,
Surrey KT22 7SU

Contact us now

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