

MID SEASON DEADHEADING

Home Sown Gardens Training

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What is deadheading?



- Removing the spent flowerhead / stalk from the plant
- Typically done when flowers are faded and/or half the leaves up the stem are faded AND the flowers are spent

Correct technique



< Correct

Take stalk all
the way to
the basal
growth

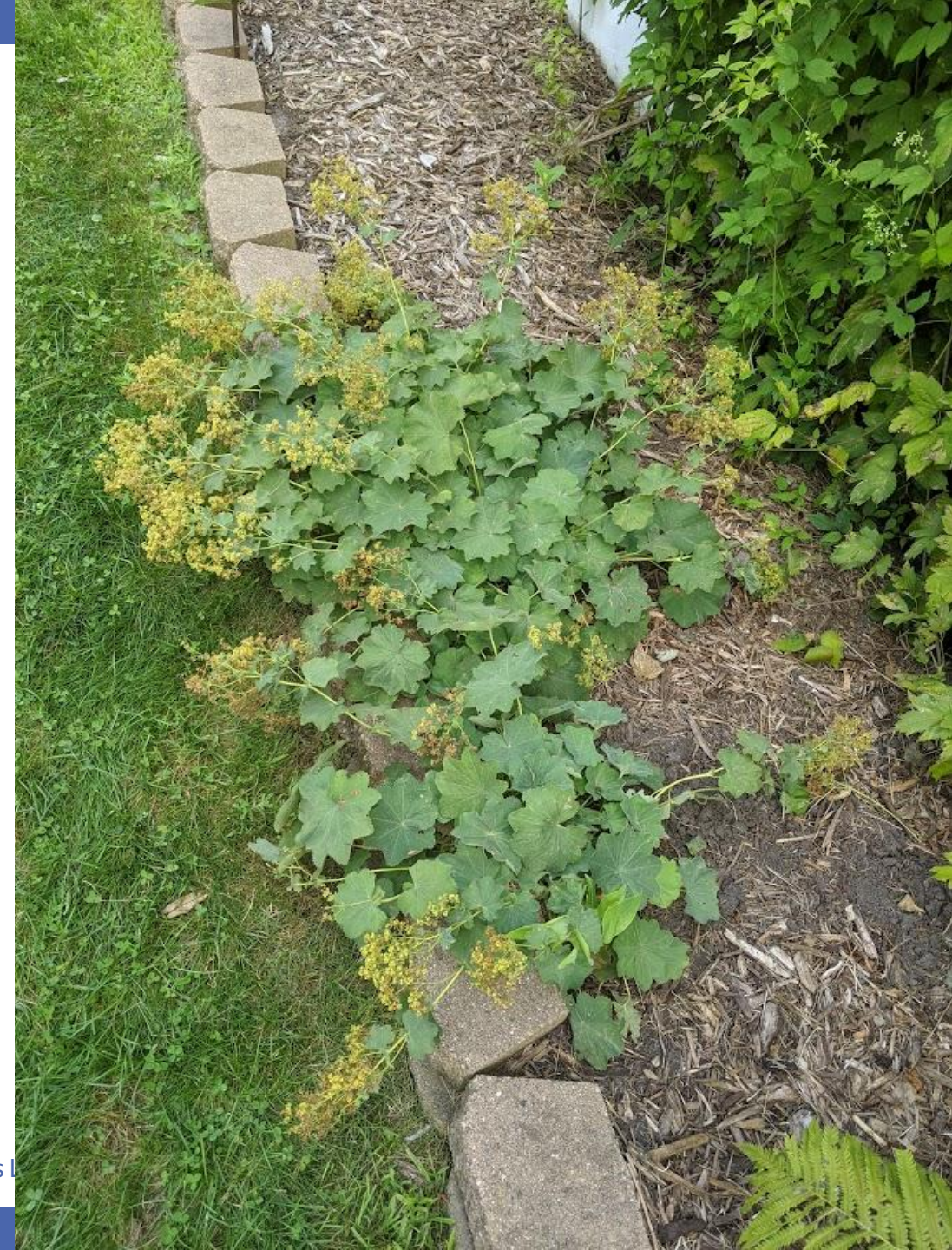
> Incorrect
Too much
stalk left

Right Home Sown Gardens LLC 2020



Technique

- Basal Crown plants
 - If not ugly, leave them alone
- Individual stalks with individual blooms
 - Daisy – cut back stalk into basal foliage
 - Asiatic Lily – cut back individual flowerhead to next strong set of leaves
- Groundcovers
 - Typically don't need deadheading
 - Tall flowerheads on sedum, ajuga can be sheared
- Spires of flowers
 - Entire spire fades, then cut back entire stalk



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Why deadhead?

Health

- Prevent seeding
- Promote vigor & flowering

Design/ Aesthetics

- Tidy appearance
- Uniformity
- Prevent seeding
 - Space available



Why deadhead?

Preference

- No flowers
- Size/Shape

Special Case

- Disease
- Pest

Coneflower Rosette Mite >
Deadhead and dispose of
affected flower heads



How do I deadhead?

- Pruners
 - Cut off spent flower heads
 - Cut at a leaf node
 - Cut stems below the leafline
- Fingers
 - Snap off dead flowerheads or seedpods or stalks below the leafline



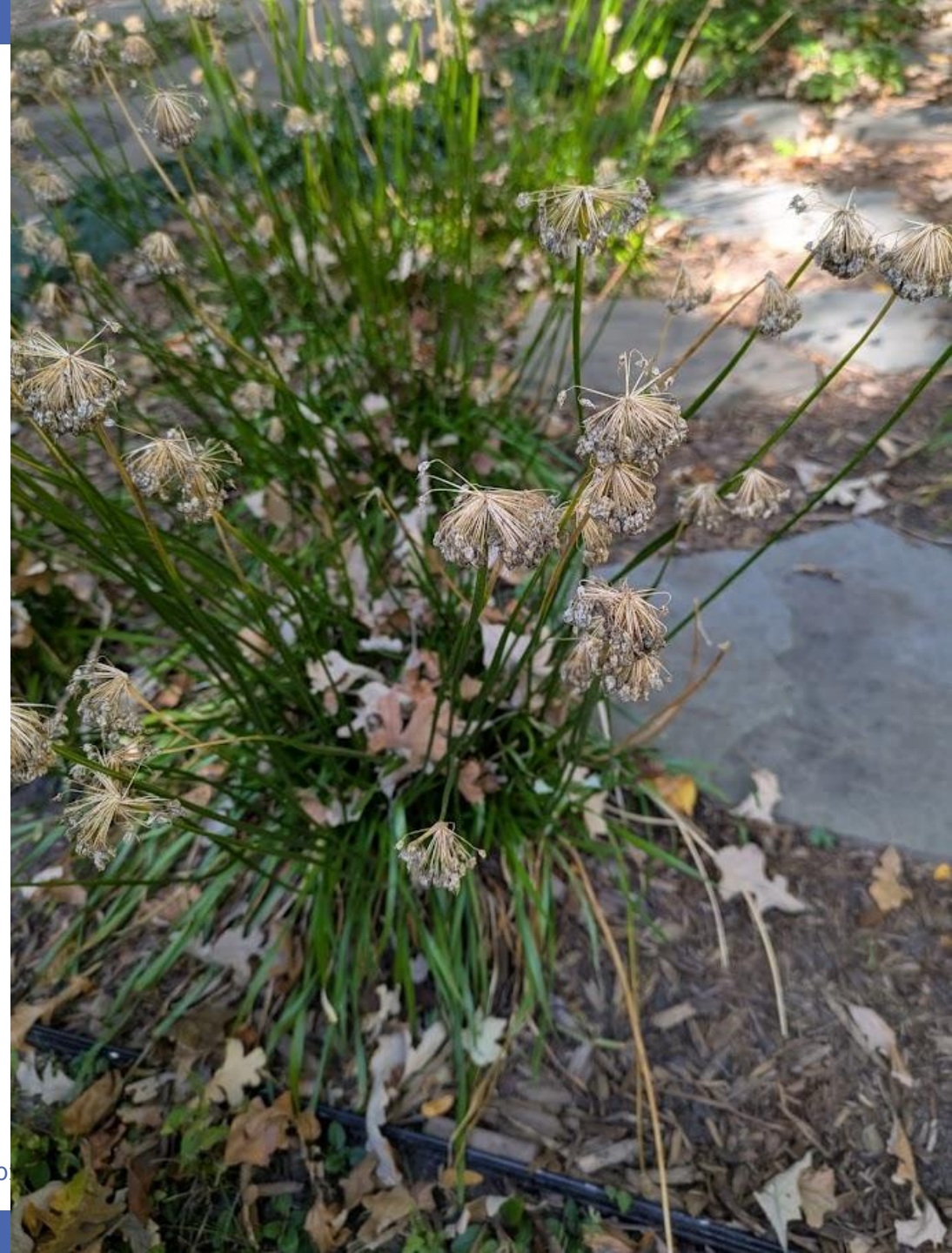
Considerations

- What will it look like if we cut everything back?
- Winter Interest? Bird food?



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- What will it look like if we deadhead everything?
- Winter Interest? Bird food?



Exceptions

- Asters
 - Late bloomers, have not flowered yet
 - Have “Ugly Knees”, not a sign of stress
 - A good spot to add an enhancement, something cute to hide the ugly knees
 - Leave them be until Fall Clean



Exceptions

Many Native Plants

- Bee Balm
- Cone Flower
- Anise Hyssop
- Black-eyed Susan
- Butterfly Weed
- Joe Pye Weed
- Liatris
- Turtlehead
- Yarrow
- Snakeroot
- Ironweed
- Sneezeweed



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Why Not?

- Food source
- Winter Interest

Why?

- Seeding
- Client Preference

Exceptions

Most Groundcovers

- Creeping Sedum
- Ajuga
- Wild Ginger
- Lily of the Valley
- Pachysandra
- Thyme
- Vinca

Exceptions

- Sometimes Sedum and Ajuga have really tall flowerheads that can be easily deadheaded with shears



Exceptions

Grasses

- Seedheads are almost always ornamental
- Leave standing for Winter Interest and food

