PLANT PROPAGATION

PERENNIALS
Dividing perennials is an easy and inexpensive way to gain additional plants for your garden. Dividing and replanting also controls the size of the plants and helps rejuvenate them. In general, it is best to divide spring and summer blooming perennials in the fall, and fall bloomers in spring. By dividing the plant when it is not flowering, all the plant’s energy can be expended on root and leaf growth. For fall division, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for the plants to become established, and for spring division allow enough time before hot weather. Most perennials should be divided every three to five years.

DIVISIONS
Division is the cutting or breaking up of a crown or clump of suckers into segments. Each segment must have a bud and some roots. These segments are replanted and grow into new plants identical to the parent. Most perennials should be lifted and divided when they become overgrown and begin to lose vigor. Vigorous growth in most perennials occurs on the outer segments of the clump. Old growth in the center of the clump is discarded.

Carefully dig the plant, loosening the roots and lifting the plant from the soil. Split apart the main clump with two spades or forks or chop with a shovel or hatchet if the clump is firmly massed. In some cases outside segments of the plant can be removed and replanted without disturbing the rest of the plant.

Some shrubs that form clumps or crowns are suitable for division. Divide in early spring while dormant. Shrubs used for division should have several clumps that are two years old or older.

BULBS AND CORMS
SEPARATIONS
Separation is a term applied to a form of propagation by which plants that produce bulbs or corms multiply.

Bulbs
New bulbs form beside the originally planted bulb. Separate these bulb clumps every 3 to 5 years for largest blooms and to increase bulb population. Dig up the clump after the leaves have withered. Gently pull the bulbs apart and replant them immediately so their roots can begin to develop. Small, new bulbs may not flower for 2 or 3 years, but large ones should bloom the first year. Examples: tulip, narcissus.

Corms
A large new corm forms on top of the old corm, and tiny cormels form around the large corm. After the leaves wither, dig up the corms and allow them to dry in indirect light for 2 or 3 weeks. Remove the
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cormels, then gently separate the new corm from the old corm. Dust all new corms with a fungicide and store in a cool place until planting time. Examples: crocus, gladiolus.

TUBERS AND RHIZOMES
Tuberous plants can be dug up and the TUBERS, swollen sections of stems or roots, can be separated. In separating the tubers, each must have a segment of the crown that contains at least one eye or bud. (Dahlia and some Anemone species are tuberous plants.)
Rhizomes, thick, fleshy stems that grow horizontally just beneath the surface of the soil, grow and develop buds along their length. The rhizomes can be dug and cut into sections so that each contains at least one eye or bud. (Iris and Canna are examples of rhizomatous species.)

Sources:
http://hcs.osu.edu/mg/manual
http://www.mastergardenproducts.com/gardenerscorner
http://ourohio.org
http://www.gardenadvice.co.uk www.taunton.com/finegardening
From the pages of *Fine Gardening Magazine*

**Techniques for Dividing Perennials**

by Todd Meier

The rootballs of some perennials can be simply pulled apart with your hands; others need to be sliced with a spade or even cut with a saw. Here’s a list of perennials and the best way to divide each of them.

When dividing perennials, timing and technique are important. And while many perennials can be divided in either early spring or early fall, some are very picky. The optimal time to divide specific perennials is denoted by (S) for spring and (F) for early fall. A single asterisk indicates that division should take place after the plant flowers. Two asterisks mean that protective gloves should be worn when dividing the plant, since its sap may irritate skin.

**Divide these plants by hand**

* Blanket flowers (Gaillardia spp.) S/F
* Bleeding hearts (Dicentra spp.) S*
* Columbines (Aquilegia spp.) S/F
* Coral bells (Heuchera spp.) S/F
* Cranesbills (Geranium spp.) S/F
* Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia) S/F
* Foam flower (Tiarella cordifolia) S/F
* Forget-me-not (Myosotis sylvatica) S*/F
* Hellebores (Helleborus spp.) S*/F
* Lamb’s ears (Stachys byzantina) S/F
* Moss pink (Phlox subulata) F
* Primroses (Primula spp.) S*
* Pulmonarias (Pulmonaria spp.) S*/F
* Stonecrop (Sedum spectabile) S/F
* Wormwood (Artemisia ludoviciana) S/F
* Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) S/F

**Divide these plants with a spade or pitchfork**

* Anemone (Anemone X hybrida) S
* Asters (Aster spp.) S
* Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia spp.) S/F
* Cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis) S/F
* Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) S/F
* Daisy (Leucanthemum X superbum) S/F
* Daylilies (Hemerocallis spp.) S/F
* Fountain grass (Pennisetum alopecuroides) S/F
* Garden phlox (Phlox paniculata) S/F
* Gaura (Gaura lindheimeri) S/F
* Hostas (Hosta spp.) S/F
* Japanese painted fern (Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum') S/F
* Lemon balm (Melissa officinalis)
* Penstemons (Penstemon spp.) S/F
* Perennial sage (Salvia X superba) S*/F
* Pinks (Dianthus plumarius) S/F
* Poppies (Papaver spp.) F

* Red hot pokers (Kniphofia spp.) S/F
* Siberian iris (Iris sibirica) F
* Tickseed (Coreopsis verticillata) S/F
* Turtlehead (Chelone glabra) S/F
* Yarrow (Achillea filipendulina) S/F

**Slice apart woody crowns with a handsaw**

* Astilbes (Astilbe spp.) S/F
* Joe Pye weed (Eupatorium maculatum) S/F
* Lilyturf (Liriope spicata) S/F
* Peonies (Paeonia cvs.) F
* Solomon’s seal (Polygonatum odoratum) S/F

**Cut up rhizomes and tubers with a knife**

* Caladiums (Caladium spp.) S
* Calla lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica) S
* Cannas (Canna spp.) S
* Corydalis (Corydalis lutea) S/F
* Dahlias (Dahlia cvs.) S
* Elephant ears (Alocasia spp.) S
* Irises (Iris spp.) F
* Lily-of-the-valley (Convallaria majalis) S/F

**These perennials are best not divided**

* Alyssums (Alyssum spp.)
* Candytuft (Iberis sempervirens)
* Carnation (Dianthus caryophyllus)
* Euphorbia (Euphorbia characias ssp. wulfenii)
* Foxgloves (Digitalis spp.)
* Garden sage (Salvia officinalis)
* Lavender cotton (Santolina chamaecys-parissus)
* Lavenders (Lavandula spp.)
* Rose campion (Lychnis coronaria)
* Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis)
* Russian sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia)
* Sweet pea (Lathyrus latifolius)
* Trillium (Trillium grandiflorum)
These Perennials, Listed Alphabetically by Botanical Name, May Be Divided in Fall

Some perennials do best if divided in the spring, some do best if divided in the fall, and others may be divided in either fall or spring. The following may be divided in the fall with good results.

- Achillea
- Aconitum
- Aegopodium
- Ajuga
- Amsonia
- Anaphalis
- Anchusa
- Anemone
- Anthemis
- Arenaria
- Armeria
- Artemisia
- Aruncus dioicus
- Asarum
- Astilbe
- Aubrieta
- Aurinia
- Baptisia
- Brunnera
- Campanula
- Centaurea
- Cerastium
- Chelone
- Cimicifuga
- Convallaria
- Corydalis
- Coreopsis
- Crocosmia
- Dianthus
- Dicentra
- Disporum
- Dodecatheon
- Echinops
- Eremurus
- Erigeron
- Eupatorium
- Euphorbia
- Filipendula
- Galium
- Gaura
- Geranium
- Geum
- Helenium
- Helianthus
- Hemerocallis
- Heuchera
- Heucherella
- Hosta
- Houttuynia
- Iris (early fall)
- Kniphofia
- Lamiastrum
- Lamium
- Liatris
- Ligularia
- Lilium
- Linum
- Liriope
- Lobelia
- Lycoris
- Lysimachia
- Monarda
- Nepeta
- Paeonia
- Papaver
- Physostegia
- Platycodon
- Polemonium
- Polygonatum
- Potentilla
- Pulmonaria
- Ranunculus
- Rodgersia
- Salvia
- Saponaria
- Sedum
- Senecio
- Sidalcea
- Smilacina
- Solidago
- Stachys
- Stokesia
- Tanacetum
- Thalictrum
- Tiarella
- Trollius
- Uvularia
- Veronica
- Viola
- Yucca