

PLANTS SHOULD BE WELL ESTABLISHED, THEN DIVIDE AS THE FOLLOWING LISTS INDICATE.

### Divide in early spring: *Every 1-3 years*

- Aster
- Beardtongue (*Penstemon*)
- Beebalm (*Monarda*)
- Carnation (*Dianthus*)
- Common Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*)
- Coralbells (*Heuchera*)
- Cornflower (*Centaurea*)
- Delphinium
- Fernleaf Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra eximia*)
- Foamflower (*Tiarella*)
- Garden Mums (*Dendranthema x grandiflora*)
- Obedient Plant (*Physostegia*)
- Painted Daisy (*Tanacetum*)
- Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum*)
- Spiderwort (*Tradescantia*)
- Tall Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
- Tickseed (*Coreopsis*)
- Yarrow (*Achillea*)

### Divide in early spring: *Every 3-5 years*

- Astilbe
- Bellflower (*Campanula*)
- Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia*)
- Catmint (*Nepeta*)
- Coneflower (*Rudbeckia*)
- Daylily (*Hemerocallis*)
- Gay Feather (*Liatris*)
- Gooseneck Loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*)
- Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium*)
- Mallow (*Malvia*)
- Sea Thrift (*Armeria*)
- Speedwell (*Veronica*)
- Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia punctata*)

### Divide in early spring: *Infrequently, 5-10 years*

- Cranesbill (*Geranium*)
- Goatsbeard (*Aruncus*)
- Hosta

- Japanese Anemone (*Anemone x hybrida*)
- Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla*)
- Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*)
- Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum*)
- Meadowsweet (*Filipendula*)
- Oxeye Daisy (*Heliopsis*)
- Siberian Iris

### Divide in late summer or early fall

- Asiatic Lily
  - Bearded Iris
  - \*Daylily (*Hemerocallis*)
  - \*Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium*)
  - \*Peony (divide infrequently)
  - \*Tall Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
  - \*Siberian Iris
- \*Can also be divided in early spring.

### Do not divide

- Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila*)
- Balloon Flower (*Platycodon*)
- Bugbane (*Cimicifuga*)
- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias*)
- Clematis
- Evening Primrose (*Oenothera missouriensis*)
- False Indigo (*Baptisia*)
- Flax (*Linum*)
- Gentian
- Lupine
- Monkshood (*Aconitum*)
- Russian Sage (*Perovskia*)

### Divide only to propagate

- Bugbane (*Cimicifuga*)
- Globeflower (*Trollius*)
- Yucca

# Dividing Perennials

Perennials can die out in the center if not divided according to each plants division needs. The roots in the center of the clump become overcrowded and can't take up enough nutrients because of root competition. Plants that have died-out in the center, as well as plants that have fewer or smaller flowers than in previous seasons, need to be divided to rejuvenate them.



The vast majority of perennials respond best to being divided in early spring when the weather is cool and moisture retention in the soil is higher. The roots systems are full of stored energy to help the divisions recover from being cut apart and replanted. Divide once you start seeing new shoots. Very small leaves and shoots are likely to suffer less physical damage than fully emerged growth and will lose less water through leaf evaporation. Spring divisions also have an entire growing season to recover and to develop the strong root system needed to survive winter.

There are two basic methods of dividing perennials. One is to cut them apart, the other is to pull or tease them apart. Start by digging up the entire clump. Tough, dense roots will need to be cut apart with a sharp knife or spade. Tangled, fibrous roots or clumps, can be separated by hand or by inserting two garden forks placed back-to-back then pull them apart.

If the foliage of the plants is dense or too tall, trim it back the plant slightly to prevent damage during the division process and to reduce transplanting shock.

Discard the old centers of plants along with any dead or rotted areas. Each new division should have two or three new shoots with healthy roots attached.

While you prepare the new holes, retain the divided clumps in a cool, shaded area. Amend the new planting area with compost or other organic matter. We strongly suggest you also add Espoma Biotone Starter fertilizer to the bottom of the hole to help the plant grow new roots.

Plant the new divisions at the same depth that the old plant was growing and water them in well. Then practice the method of providing water, allowing the soil to dry down to a couple inches and then water again, for several weeks while new roots are forming.

## Transplanting or Dividing Peonies

Although they can be left undisturbed for many years, it may become necessary to move establish peonies. The best time to divide peonies is in September. Plant them in a sunny, well-drained site in soil well amended with organic matter.

Cut the peony stems near ground level. Carefully dig around and under the plant retaining as much of the root system as possible. After digging up the plant, gently remove loose soil from the roots. Divide the clump into sections, making sure each division has at least 3 to 5 eyes (these look like buds on the roots) and a good portion of the root system.

Dig the new hole large enough for the entire root system. **Place the plant in the hole so the eyes are 1 to 2 inches below the soil surface.** If they are planted deeper they often fail to bloom properly. Fill the hole with soil and firm the soil as you back fill. When you're done, water thoroughly. Space plants 4 feet apart. Apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch in late fall after the ground has frozen. This will prevent repeated thawing and refreezing of the soil that will damage the plants. Remove the mulch in early spring when new growth begins.

Transplanted peonies will probably not bloom well the first spring but will be back in good form by the third or fourth year.