



# Dividing Perennials

## Why?

1. Divide perennials to maintain health and vigor. When crowded, dense foliage doesn't dry out from the morning dew, which in turn, invites disease which thrives on poor air circulation. As perennials age, the center of the clump may become woody and unproductive, and the soil around the plant may become depleted of nutrients after years of retention.
2. Divide perennials to maintain their beauty and peak flower production. Aged and crowded plants produce small flowers and sparse, small leaves. They're root bound so they don't take up nutrients from the soil. The result is faded foliage color, poor blooming and often stunted stem growth.
3. Dividing controls excessive spread. Some vigorous growers, such as artemesia and yarrow need dividing every year or two.
4. By dividing plants, you make more plants!

## When?

1. Divide your perennials either in the spring or in the fall, when heat or frozen ground is not an issue. Wait to divide perennials after they have bloomed.
2. Divide plants late in the day, or when the sky is overcast. Protection from the sun will spare your plants additional stress during the process and once they're planted. If rain is expected, divide before the rain is due.

## How?

1. Most perennials can be divided by carefully digging up the entire 'clump', lifting the root ball out of the ground.
2. If necessary to identify individual plants (such as daylilies) spray the soil off of the root ball. Use a sharp knife or spade to cut between leaf stems and through the roots to separate chunks of the plants. Isolate individual plants or small groups of plants, making sure they each have some leaves and plenty of roots.
3. Replant divisions in ground as soon as possible. Enrich soil with compost so it holds moisture and drains well. Keep them well-watered and mulched well.

Plant Name	When to Divide	How Often?
Artemesia	Spring or Fall	1-2 years
Astilbe	Spring	1-3 years
Baptisia	Spring or Fall	10 or more
Bee Balm	Spring or Fall	2-3 years
Black-Eyed Susan	Spring or Fall	4-5 years
Boltonia	Spring or Fall	4-5 years
Chrysanthemum	Spring or Fall	3-5 years
Coreopsis	Spring or Fall	1-3 years
Daylily	Anytime	4-5 years
Daylily, Rebloomer	Spring or Fall	2-3 years
Epimedium	Early Spring	6-10 years
Garden Phlox	Spring	1-3 years
Goldenrod	Spring or Fall	4-5 years
Hellebore	Spring	10 or more
Hosta	Spring or Fall	10 or more
Hypericum	Spring or Fall	1-3 years
Lady's Mantle	Spring or Fall	6-10 years
Ornamental Grass	Spring	3-4 years
Peony	Late Summer	10 or more
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'	Early Spring	6-10 years
Veronica, Spike	Spring or Fall	1-3 years
Yarrow	Spring or Fall	1-2 years