



THE LANDSCAPE CONSULTANTS

Your design and installation team



Divide and Share Your Perennials

Dividing your perennials can be a very rewarding experience. As you tend the plants and divide them, you increase your perennial beds and maybe sharing with family and friends the bounty of your hard work.

Most all perennials that increase in size by forming new roots and stems can be lifted and divided. This type of propagation works well for most perennials as well as many bamboos, ferns, grasses and herbs.

When to divide?

The springtime is the best for dividing mid or late summer flowering plants like asters, chrysanthemums, sunflowers and Japanese anemones. Where as those that flower in spring like peonies, columbine, bleeding hearts and cranesbills are best divided in September or October.

If it is a small division that is needed, then you may not need to lift the whole plant, gently loosen stems and roots on one side and then cut the small plant off cleanly. Make sure that each new plant has buds as well as roots to ensure it will root in and grow. Pack the soil back around the mother plant and then start your new divisions.

Dividing clumps of bulbs can be done about a month after flowering, when the foliage has turned yellow. Lift with a pitch fork and gently separate the bulbs and then replanting them right away to the same depth. Remove the smallest bulb and plant then into a holding bed in the back until they have reached flowering size.

Division of plants in the spring or fall should be done usually every 3 to 5 years.

To separate off the young plants or shoots use a grafting knife, old pruner's or a sharp spade. When dividing older plants save only the outer parts of the clump and eliminate the old woody or fibrous centre, which will produce few new shoots. Divide the remaining parts of the clump into 3-4 pieces, if you divide down into too small of pieces, they may become too weak and be overgrown by other plants.



The division of your perennials not only increases your perennial supply, but will contain the growth of the plants in the garden, rejuvenate them so they continue to look good and flower for the growing season. Overgrown beds can cause disease and pest problems and well as plants having to compete with each other for light, nutrients and water.

When you dig up your perennials it is a great time to enrich the soil by incorporating compost, bone meal or manure to the planting hole. Always remember to water your new plant well until they are established.

The division of hostas can be done easily by carefully removing plantlets from the plants perimeter. Make sure to water well to keep from drying out when they are getting established.



3 Replant your healthiest divisions and toss the old ones in the compost heap. Toss divisions with sparse roots as well. Spread the roots out in the planting hole and replant the divisions at the same depth they were growing previously. Water well to keep the plants evenly moist until they are established.

