

## **DIVIDING PERENNIALS**

When to divide perennials and how is one of the most common questions we get at the Garden Centre.

Most perennials need to be divided every 3 to 5 years. Signs include plants spreading and infringing on other nearby plants, plants thinning out in the centre, leaves becoming smaller and having fewer, smaller blooms.

There are many types of root systems, but no matter what type of plant, you need to have a piece of the root and an “eye” of the plant to start another one.

Dividing perennial plants gives you healthier, longer lived plants and the bonus of more plants that you can give away or plant elsewhere in your garden.

Spring is usually the best time for division, since the plants are actively growing and their leaves are not so developed that the root system can't take a little disturbance and still feed the top of the plant. However, just as different plants can go different lengths of time before being divided, some plants, like peonies, prefer to be divided in the early fall.

The day before you divide your perennials, give their root system a good soaking. Disturbing the root system while dividing interrupts the plants' ability to feed and hydrate itself. Insuring that the roots are well saturated reduces the trauma that dividing will cause.

If you have any other questions regarding dividing your perennials, feel free to ask one of our expert staff for help.



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