



## When & How to Divide Perennials

### WHY DIVIDE:

Division is separation of offshoots from mature perennial plants. Dividing perennials helps maintain healthy growth and flowering while also propagating new plants.

### WHEN TO DIVIDE: Divide when plant is growing , but not blooming.

- Midsummer to Fall bloomers - Divide in early spring.
- Spring to Early Summer bloomer - Divide in late summer or early fall.
- Best to divide in the morning on a cool, overcast day.

### HOW TO DIVIDE:

1. Prepare by watering plants a day before and enriching new planting area with *Hi-Yield Bone Meal* and *Cotton Burr Compost* or *Johnson's Soil Recipe*.
2. Dig up the root system, shake off loose soil, and remove dead leaves/ stems.
3. Identify division points by gently twisting the root ball to see natural break points. Each piece should have its own roots and no more than two cut sides.
4. Use the right tool to divide:
  - Loose-knit plants (e.g., coneflowers) - use a trowel.
  - Large crown plants (e.g., peonies, astilbes) - Use a clean, sharp knife.
5. Replant immediately, positioning divisions ½ inch higher than original depth.
6. Mulch around the crown (2-3 inches deep) and water well with *ferti • lome Root Stimulator* (repeat every 10-14 days).

### ROOT SYSTEM TYPES & DIVISION METHODS:

- Spreading: Slim, matted roots can be pulled apart (e.g., aster, bee balm, coneflower).
- Clumping: Central crown. Requires cutting or prying apart (e.g., astilbes, day lilies).
- Rhizome: Remove old sections; replant individual rhizome, so top is slightly visible (e.g., iris, bergenia).
- Tuberous: Cut ensuring each piece has a stem and bud (e.g., dahlia, some anemones).

### PERENNIALS TO AVOID DIVIDING:

Butterfly weed, baby's breath, euphorbias, oriental poppies, Japanese anemones, false indigo and columbines.

Don't forget to use Johnson's Soil Recipe which is good for everything you plant!  
(recipe on back)

## Johnson's Soil Recipe

Covers 100 sq. ft.

- Three 2-cu. ft. bags Cotton Burr Compost
- 3.25 lbs. Hi•Yield Bone Meal
- 3.25 lbs. ferti • lome Gardener's Special
- 3.25 lbs. ferti •lome HuMic Granular Humic Acid

To improve the health and condition of your soil before spring planting, add these amendments to your soil. Mix in well with a tiller or a garden shovel to about 8-12" deep. Deeper is OK, but not always practical in heavy clay soils.

Never till or work up your soil when it is too wet. You'll create hard clods that may be difficult to break up. Be patient. Wait until the soil has dried to a crumbly consistency.

After planting, you might want to sprinkle **HI-YIELD Herbicide Granules Weed And Grass Preventer (Treflan)** on top of the soil and around your plants to prevent annual weeds from germinating. Be sure to check the label for your plants before using.

Here is a list of Soil Recipe ingredients and the benefits of each.

### COTTON BURR COMPOST

100% organic compost that improves poor soil immediately by restoring vital organic matter and humus. It increases moisture-holding capacity of sandy soils and is unsurpassed at breaking up clay soils. Cotton Burr Compost adds beneficial microorganisms to the soil.



### FERTI • LOME GARDENER'S SPECIAL (11-15-11)

An excellent all-purpose plant food that contains both fast and slow release nitrogen. It provides a generous supply of plant nutrients needed for healthy growth and contains necessary trace elements to aid in development of plant and crop yield.



### HI•YIELD BONE MEAL (0-10-0)

Provides a slow release form of natural phosphorus to help plants produce sturdy root systems, hasten maturity and stimulate plant growth.



### FERTI • LOME HUMIC

A Granular Humic Acid soil amendment for vegetable gardens, flowerbeds and compost bins. A concentrated soil conditioner derived from remains of decomposed organic plant materials, humic acids enhance nutrient uptake and stimulate soil microbial life, which encourages root development.

