



Propagation

Division

Dividing plants is an excellent and easy way to multiply perennials without having to buy new plants to fill a border, saving time and money.

Dividing herbaceous perennials creates healthy plants and encourages new growth, with the opportunity to remove any damaged or dead foliage and any old roots that do not provide any benefit to the plant.

Dividing herbaceous perennial plants is an easy job to do within the garden and is best carried out in Autumn and Spring.

It is advisable to divide the plants every 2 to 3 years as this will promote further growth and health.

Division can also be done more regularly especially if you wish to increase the amount of plants to add to a border.

Herbaceous Perennial plants which can be divided:

Ornamental grasses

Iris

Primrose

Herbs



Hosta

Heuchera

Epimedium

Helleborus

Delphinium.

How to divide Herbaceous Perennials:

Using a fork, gently lift out the plant, being careful not to cause any damage to the root or main plant.

Shake off any additional soil, enabling you to see the root system clearly and cut away any part of the crown which is dead or damaged.

Some plants can produce individual plants as part of their life cycle so can be gently eased out and replanted or potted up.

Herbaceous perennials which have fibrous roots can be gently pulled apart, cutting away any dead or damaged roots or foliage, creating small healthy plants which can then be replanted back into the borders.



Larger rooted perennials need to be divided by using two forks which are placed back to back which are put into the centre of the plant and pushed down into the crown. The forks can then be pulled apart loosening the root clump enabling the plant to be divided more easily into individual plants ready to be replanted into the borders or to be re potted.

Dead, old, and unhealthy roots can be cut away, leaving a healthy root system, enabling the plant to grow thrive when planted into the border.

Herbaceous Perennial – Herbaceous Perennials are often low growing plants, which have soft green stems rather than a woody stem and their growth above ground tends to be seasonal.

Fibrous Root System – Thin moderately branching roots which grow from the stem.

Clump forming Roots - A plant can produce crowns from which the stem arises.



Worksheet Propagation

Division

- 1. What are the benefits of propagating plants by way of division?**
- 2. When is the best time of year to divide herbaceous perennials?**
- 3. How often would this garden job be carried out?**
- 4. Give 4 examples of herbaceous perennials which can be divided to fill the borders.**



- 5. Which tools can be used to divide plants, reducing the risk of damaging the roots?**

- 6. How can plants be lifted before division takes place?**

- 7. Why is it important to remove any dead, diseased, or damaged roots or foliage from the mother plant, before replanting back into the borders?**

- 8. Describe the method of dividing herbaceous perennials with a fibrous root system.**

- 9. Describe the method of dividing herbaceous perennials with a larger more clump forming root system.**

- 10. Describe the different root systems herbaceous perennials may have.**