

# Growing for Auckland

## Lifting and dividing perennials

Lifting and dividing perennials regularly will ensure healthy vigorous plants that will continue to perform year after year.

Lifting and dividing is also an easy and inexpensive way to multiply your plants. It will rejuvenate old plants and prevent clumps from spreading or becoming too big.

### When to divide

Division is most successful when plants are not in active growth, as the plant's energy can be directed into establishing its new roots. Summer flowering plants are best divided in autumn, or wait until spring if the plant is likely to be susceptible to frost.

Many perennials grow quickly, forming large clumps. Most benefit from division every three to four years, but if the plant has lost vigour, has smaller flowers, or has died out in the middle, it is ready to be divided.

### Different root types

#### Fibrous

Most herbaceous perennials.  
e.g. *Hemerocallis* (day lily),  
*Geranium*, *Hosta*

#### Rhizome

e.g. *Iris*, Canna lily, ginger

#### Tuber

e.g. *Dahlia*, sweet potato



*Achillea*





## How to lift and divide herbaceous perennials

Lift plants gently with a sharp pointed shovel or garden fork, working around the outside edge of the plant to limit root damage. Shake or wash off excess soil so that roots are visible.



Some plants, such as *Stachys* (pictured) *Ajuga*, or *Achillea* can be teased apart into individual plantlets, and replanted.



Large fibrous rooted plants such as *Hemerocallis* may need levering apart with two garden forks inserted into the crown back to back, loosening the root mass.

Small fibrous rooted plants e.g. *Heuchera* or *Geranium* can be lifted and pulled apart into smaller clumps for replanting.

Plants with tough fleshy roots e.g. *Hosta* may need to be cut into sections using a sharp spade or knife.

## Aftercare

Tidy up any damaged roots, then plant out as soon as possible at their original soil depth and water in well.

## Contact

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