



Virginia Green Industry Council

For Immediate Use

Contact: Virginia Green Industry Council

540-382-0943

Electronic Version:

www.viriniagreen.org

Divided They Prosper: Making the Most of Prolific Perennials

For optimal growth and appearance, most perennials need thinning every few years. It's also an economical way to spread beauty throughout the landscape. Depending on planting dates in your region, fall or spring are the best times to divide perennials. The American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) offer easy guidelines for the task.

Cut or pull apart mature clumps of plants. Separate into groups of three to five shoots or growing points. Discard weak or diseased sections. Some perennials, like Bearded iris, have rhizomes. Cut through these, leaving at least one growing point on each section.

Other perennials, like phlox for example, may be divided by cutting the stems. Cuttings should be three to six inches long. Remove the lower foliage and place plant slips in a rooting medium or in jars of water. Once roots are formed, transplant cuttings to pots or beds. Late spring cutting allows ample time for roots to become established before winter.

As with any plant, good bed preparation is key to successful growth. Most perennials prefer well drained soils enriched with organic matter. If possible, spade the beds deeply, to a depth of eight to ten inches. Keep your plants happy with adequate irrigation-soaker hoses and irrigation systems work well. Apply fertilizer periodically, following package directions carefully. Your local garden center or nursery can provide growing instructions for your area.

Go to our consumer website for additional gardening information at www.VirginiaGardening.com

The Virginia Green Industry Council is the voice of the horticulture industry in the Commonwealth and is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the state's environment, the well-being of our citizens, improving our state's economy, and improving the health and wellness for everyone in Virginia. The Council is made up of providers and consumers of horticultural products and services. The Council works to provide public and industry education, environmental guidelines and other information that will keep Virginia green and growing. For more information, visit www.viriniagreen.org. 540-382-0943 FAX: 540-382-2716 E-mail:info@viriniagreen.org

Virginia Green Industry Council
383 Coal Hollow Rd
Christiansburg, VA 24073-6721