

## Caring For Your Existing Landscape Plants

Now that you've had your landscape for a few years you'll probably notice that some of your landscape plants have started to get a bit large for their area or maybe you've seen that you have weeds popping up throughout your bed. If you've noticed either of these problems don't worry. We can help you find solutions to control the weeds in your landscape and help you with your overgrown plants.

### Dividing

If you've noticed that some of your landscape plants have become a bit overgrown it might be time for you to divide them. Before you start its important to know what kind of plant you have because some plants might not be able to be divided so you will just have to move them to a location where they have more space to grow.

If you have a perennial that has gotten a bit large for its area you might be able to split it in half so it will look less overgrown, and you have a new plant to put somewhere else in your landscape. Below you will find a list of some perennials that can be divided.

- **Yarrow**
- **Bugleweed**
- **Artemesia**
- **Asters**
- **Siberian Bugloss (Brunnera)**
- **Coreopsis**
- **Geraniums**
- **Daylilies**
- **Hostas**
- **Bearded Iris**
- **Shasta Daisies**
- **Bee Balm**
- **Catmint**
- **Beardtongue**
- **Creeping Phlox**
- **Black-Eyed Susan**
- **Sedum**
- **Creeping Thyme**

Before you start dividing your plants you should know that the best time to do so is on a cloudy day, because doing it on a hot sunny day can cause your plant to dry out. You should also prepare the plant by watering it the day before if the area is dry so the new transplants have moisture when they are being moved. You also want to research when your plant will normally bloom because the best time to divide spring

and summer blooming plants is in fall and the best time to divide fall blooming plants is in spring.

Steps for dividing perennials:

1. Dig up the parent plant using a spade or fork
2. Gently lift the plant out of the ground and gently remove any loose dirt around the roots
3. Separate the plant into smaller divisions by:
  - a. Gently pulling or teasing the roots apart with your hands
  - b. Cutting them apart with a sharp knife or spade
  - c. Putting two forks in the center of the clump, back-to-back, and pulling them apart
4. Each division should have three to five shoots and a healthy supply of roots
5. Keep the divisions shaded and moist until they are replanted.

### Weed Control

If you've had your landscape for a few years and have noticed that more and more weeds have been popping up, its time to look at weed control. One of the easiest ways to control weeds is by adding mulch to your landscape. After you have controlled the existing weeds, adding mulch to your landscape can make weed control easier by limiting the number of weeds making it easier to contain. When weeds do appear, you can control them without chemicals through hand pulling or tilling. These methods are great if you don't mind the time involved or want to avoid the use of chemicals.

If you don't mind chemical methods you can use preemergence herbicides to reduce the number of weeds that will need to be dealt with in your landscape. If you still find weeds and don't mind chemical control you can use postemergence herbicides to spot spray the weeds, but you will need to be careful not to spray the ornamental plants in your landscape.