

Dividing and Potting Tips From HGC Civic Improvement Chair

1. **Assemble** everything you need (as in baking!). You will need empty pots (medium work for most things), **a shovel, a trowel, a cheap saw, a hoe, mulch, top or garden soil** (Jed's has soil and yes, it does cost a bit).
2. I use my trusty wheel barrel to cart the pots which are partially filled with a half mulch and half soil combo over to the perennials which need dividing. I used to use just top soil and wondered why my pots were so heavy!
3. **Dig down deeply in a circle** around a single plant which needs a new home. Lift plant with entire root ball and soil with shovel and settle it into a pot of an appropriate size. Fill in with more soil/compost/mulch as needed.
4. If you have hostas or daylilies which need dividing or another plant which grows in **clumps**, dig up the entire clump, lay it on its side and study its growth. With a sharp shovel (or a saw works even better!), slice right through the plant forming two plants. One you pop right back into its spot and the other you pop into the pot. Yes, it is that easy.
5. Occasionally, if you have a **really big plant**, you can make three or four new ones. I once took a hardy geranium (from Nancy Y.'s father's home) and made 16 babies which were divided again and again to make countless offspring to fill a large area...much nicer than invasive weeds.
6. Place your new potted plants in a shady area if possible so you won't have to water as much, but **watering is essential** so they will look happy for the sale.
7. **No invasives!** By the way, if you bring any invasives to the sale, they will be hidden from view and disposed of properly. Common invasives include purple loosestrife, certain wild types of Artemisia and chrysanthemum, money plant, meadow buttercup, jewel weed, etc. You, yourself, will be able to tell an invasive if you find some plant in your garden that wants to "take over" and squeeze out everything else.
8. **If you are dividing in the fall**, use vegetable garden space or another area close to a water source (for spring watering). Place planted pots in this area and push the soil around them. This will help keep plants moist and happy for the long winter. Come spring, give them a good "freshening up".
9. Osmocote or another plant fertilizer added in the spring and some fresh mulch to finish your plants off is optional but makes us look professional.

Remember: The Holden Garden Club considers our annual Perennial Plant Sale our greatest community service. By selling plants at affordable costs, giving planting tips, and providing plants that thrive in our area, we are making our community more beautiful....one garden at a time.