

Dividing and Potting Tips from Nancy Riggs

1. **Assemble** everything you need (as in baking!). You will need empty pots (6"-10" preferred), **a shovel, a trowel, a cheap saw, mulch, top or garden soil** in package to avoid weed seeds/invasive crittI use my trusty wheel barrel to cart the pots, which are partially filled with a mulch (1/3) at bottom and soil combination, over to the perennials which need dividing. I used to use just top soil and wondered why my pots were so heavy!
2. **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.
3. 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 flat pitchfork (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. (Remember, no invasives!)
4. Occasionally, if you have a **really big plant**, you can make three or four new ones. I once took a hardy geranium and made 16 babies which were divided again and again to make countless offspring to fill a large area. This made a wonderful groundcover. 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.
5. **If you are dividing in the fall**, use vegetable garden space or another area close to a water source (for spring watering). Tip the pots to avoid root rot from water not being able to drain, then 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".
6. Osmocote or another plant fertilizer added early and some fresh mulch to finish your plants off is optional but makes us look professional.
7. Don't forget to go to the Holden Garden Club website to access labels which are found under Community Events. If you don't see the one you need or if you need just one or two labels for a cultivar, print the "Blank Label" at the top.

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.

The HGC is also able to support organizations and schools with a horticultural and /or environmental mission, and offer superb programming. We have given literally thousands of dollars in school grants and for other worthwhile causes. By contributing plants to our plant sale, you are helping the HGC make a difference!