## How Often to Divide Perennials

Some perennials need division frequently, while others do better if left undisturbed. The list below illustrates how often to divide many common perennials. These recommendations assume suitable growing conditions and overall healthy plants.

### Plants that need division every 1-3 years
- **Achillea** – yarrow
- **Anchusa** – bugloss
- **Anthemis** – hardy marguerite
- **Artemisia** – wormwood
- **Aster** – aster
- **Delphinium** – Delphinium
- **Iris** – bearded iris
- **Monarda** – bee balm
- **Phlox** – phlox
- **Physostegia** – false dragonhead
- **Primula** – primrose

### Plants that need division every 4-5 years
- **Armeria** – sea thrift
- **Astilbe** – astilbe
- **Campanula** – bellflower
- **Centaurea** – perennial cornflower
- **Chelone** – turtlehead
- **Coreopsis** – tickseed
- **Dicentra exima** – fern leaf bleeding heart
- **Echinacea** – coneflower
- **Erigeron** – fleabane
- **Heuchera** – coral bells
- **Liatris** – blazing-star
- **Lilium** – true lilies
- **Rudbeckia** – black-eyed-Susan
- **Scabiosa** – pincushion flower
- **Solidago** – goldenrod
- **Stachys** – lamb’s ears
- **Veronica** – speedwell

### Plants that need division every 6-10 years or do not like to be disturbed
- **Alchemilla** – lady’s mantle
- **Brunnera** – Siberian bugloss
- **Cimicifuga** – snakeroot
- **Echinops** – globe thistle
- **Epimedium** – bishop’s hat
- **Geranium** – hardy geranium
- **Hemerocallis** – daylily
- **Hosta** – hosta
- **Iberis** – candytuft
- **Iris** – Siberian iris
- **Ligularia** – ligularia
- **Limonium** – statice
- **Lysimachia** – loosestrife
- **Nepeta** – catmint
- **Polygonatum** – Soloman’s seal
- **Pulmonaria** – lungwort
- **Salvia** – meadow sage
- **Sedum** – stonecrop
- **Thalictrum** – meadowrue
- **Trollius** – globeflower
- **ornamental grasses**

### Plants that need division only every 10 or more years
- **Aconitum** – monkshood
- **Anenome** – anemone, windflower
- **Aruncus** – goat’s beard
- **Asclepias** – butterfly weed
- **Baptisia** – wild indigo
- **Dicentra spectabilis** – bleeding heart
- **Dictamnus** – gas plant
- **Eryngium** – sea holly
- **Euphorbia** – spurge
- **Gypsophila** – baby’s breath
- **Hibiscus** – hibiscus
- **Paeonia** – peony
- **Papaver** – Oriental poppy
- **Platycodon** – balloon flower
- **Thermopsis** – false lupine
Deadheading, Shaping and Shearing Perennials
For rebloom, longer bloom or better overall appearance

Perennials to deadhead – remove individual spent flowers or flower stalks from these plants for rebloom or continuous bloom

- Achillea – yarrow
- Alchemilla – lady’s mantle
- Catanache – cupid’s dart
- Centranthus ruber – red and white Valerian
- Digitalis – foxglove
- Erigeron – fleabane
- Gaillardia – blanket flower
- Gypsophila – baby’s breath
- Heliopsis – false sunflower
- Lavender – lavender
- Leucanthemum x superbum – Shasta daisy
- Lobelia – lobelia, cardinal flower
- Lychnis – rose campion, Maltese cross
- Lythrum – purple loosestrife
- Penstemon – penstemon
- Phlox – garden phlox
- Platycodon – balloon flower
- Redbeckia hirta – gloriosa daisy
- Salvia – salvia, sage
- Veronica – speedwell

Deadhead to improve overall appearance

- Aubrieta – Aubrieta
- Ajuga – bugleweed
- Aurinia – basket of gold
- Aruncus – goat’s beard
- Astilbe – Astilbe, false Spiraea
- Bergenia – Bergenia
- Doronicum – leopard’s bane
- Echinops – globe thistle
- Geranium – hardy geranium
- Helleborus – Lenten rose; wait until after seed sets
- Hemerocallis – daylily
- Heuchera – coral bells
- Hosta – hosta
- Iris – iris, bearded
- Liatris – spike gayfeather
- Ligularia – Ligularia
- Lily – true lilies
- Paeonia – peony
- Phlox – creeping phlox
- Stachys – lamb’s ear

Perennials to shape into rounded forms to give structure to the garden

- Baptisia – false indigo
- Euphorbia polychroma – cushion spurge
- Linum – blue flax
- Malva – malva, to prevent self-seeding
- Monarda – bee balm
- Oenothera fruiticosa – sundrops

Perennials to shear to the ground to stimulate new foliage and possible rebloom

- Aconitum – monkshood
- Alcea – hollyhock, to control rust, too
- Alchemilla – lady’s mantle
- Aquilegia – columbine
- Armeria – seathrift, cut to basal growth
- Aster – spring aster
- Brunnera – Siberian bugloss
- Campanula – bellflower, cut to basal growth
- Corydalis – corydalis, late summer dormant
- Delphinium hybrids – delphinium
- Dianthus – carnations, pinks, to basal growth
- Dicentra – bleeding heart, summer dormant
- Geranium – hardy geranium
- Lupinus – lupine
- Monarda – bee balm
- Nepeta – catmint
- Papaver – Oriental poppy
- Primula – primrose, summer dormant
- Pulmonaria – lungwort
- Pyrethrum – painted daisy
- Sidalcea – miniature hollyhock
- Solidago – goldenrod
- Trollius – globe flower

Plants not to deadhead – leave seed heads of these plants for winter interest and birds

- Agastache – anise hyssop
- Anenome x hybrid – Japanese anenome
- Cimicifuga – snakeroot
- Echinacea – purple coneflower
- Perovskia – Russian sage
- Rudbeckia – black-eyed-Susan
- Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’ ornamental grasses

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