



Columbia Nursery

Perennial Division Guide for Northwest Montana

A Reference from Columbia Nursery

Dividing perennials is an essential part of maintaining a healthy, thriving garden. It encourages better blooming, prevents overcrowding, and allows you to propagate more plants for your landscape. Below is a handy guide to help you know the best time of year to divide popular perennials in Northwest Montana (Zones 3–5).

Genus/Species (Common Name)	Best Time to Divide
Achillea (Yarrow)	Spring or late fall
Aconitum (Monkshood)	Fall or early spring
Aegopodium (Bishop's Weed)	Fall or spring
Ajuga (Ajuga)	Anytime in growing season
Alcea (Hollyhock)	Cannot divide, start new from seed
Alchemilla (Lady's Mantle)	Early spring
Anaphalis (Pearly Everlasting)	Early spring or late fall
Aquilegia (Columbine)	Early spring
Arabis (Rockcress)	Divide clumps after flowering
Arenaria (Sandwort)	Spring or fall
Armeria (Thrift)	Spring or fall
Artemisia (Artemisia)	Spring or fall
Aruncus (Goat's Beard)	Spring
Asters (Asters)	Spring
Astilbes (Astilbe)	Spring or fall
Bergenia (Bergenia)	Spring
Brunnera (Brunnera)	Early spring or fall
Campanula (Bellflower)	Early spring or fall
Chelone (Turtlehead)	Spring or late fall
Chrysanthemums (Daisy & Mum)	Late spring
Clematis (Clematis)	Cannot divide, take cuttings in spring
Convallaria (Lily of the Valley)	Summer or fall, called 'Pips'
Coreopsis (Coreopsis)	Spring or fall
Crocus (Crocus)	Divide corms after foliage fades, replant in fall
Delphinium (Delphinium)	Spring
Dianthus (Pinks)	Spring or fall
Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)	Fall or as they go dormant
Digitalis (Foxglove)	Cannot divide, start new from seed
Doronicum (Leopard's Bane)	Divide after flowering
Echinacea (Coneflower)	Cannot divide, start new from seed
Echinops (Globe Thistle)	Fall
Eryngium (Sea Holly)	Cannot divide, start new from seed
Euphorbia (Spurge)	Fall
Filipendula (Meadowsweet)	Fall



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Fritillaria (Fritillaria)	Divide bulbs after flowering
Gaillardia (Blanket Flower)	Early spring
Geranium (Cranesbill)	.....	Early spring or fall
Geum (Avens)	.....	Spring or fall
Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)	.....	Cannot divide, start new from seed
Heliopsis (Heliopsis)	.....	Divide after flowering
Hemerocallis (Daylily)	.....	Late summer
Heuchera (Coral Bells)	.....	Early spring or fall
Hosta (Hosta)	.....	Early spring or fall
Iberis (Candytuft)	.....	Cannot divide, start new from seed
Iris (Bearded Iris)	.....	After flowering in summer
Iris (Siberian Iris)	.....	Spring or fall
Lavandula (Lavender)	.....	Spring
Liatris (Gayfeather)	.....	Divide corms in early fall
Lilium (Asiatic & Hybrid Lily)	.....	Divide bulbs in late summer
Limonium (Statice)	.....	Cannot divide, start new from seeds
Linum (Flax)	.....	Spring or fall
Lupinus (Lupine)	.....	Remove side shoots in fall
Malva (Mallow)	.....	Cannot divide, start new from seeds
Monarda (Bee Balm)	.....	Early spring or fall
Narcissus (Daffodil)	.....	Divide bulbs as foliage yellows, replant in fall
Nepeta (Catmint)	.....	Spring or fall
Paeonia (Peony)	.....	Late summer, does not like to be divided
Papaver (Poppy, all kinds)	.....	Late summer, plants go dormant after flowering
Penstemon (Penstemon)	.....	Early spring or after flowering
Perovskia (Russian Sage)	.....	Cannot divide, take cuttings in early summer
Phlox paniculata (Tall Garden Phlox)	.....	Spring
Phlox subulata (Creeping Phlox)	.....	Fall
Platycodon (Balloon Flower)	.....	Spring or early fall
Polemonium (Jacob's Ladder)	.....	After flowering in fall
Polygonatum (Solomon's Seal)	.....	Spring or fall
Potentilla (Groundcover Potentilla)	.....	Spring or fall
Primula (Primrose)	.....	After flowering, spring or early summer
Pulmonaria (Lungwort)	.....	After flowering in fall
Rudbeckia (Black Eye Susan)	.....	Spring
Salvia (Sage)	.....	Spring or fall
Scabiosa (Pincushion Flower)	.....	Spring
Sedum (Sedum)	.....	Spring ONLY if crowded, does not like to be divided
Stachys (Lamb's Ear)	.....	Fall
Tradescantia (Spiderwort)	.....	As plant goes dormant after flowering
Trollius (Globeflower)	Early spring or fall
Tulipa (Tulip)	Divide bulbs as foliage yellows, replant in fall



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Veronica (Speedwell)	Spring or fall
Vinca (Periwinkle)	Early spring
Viola (Violet)	Spring or fall
Yucca (Yucca)	.....	Divide offsets in spring or fall