

## Riverside Nursery

Is making it easier for you this season with our helpful information lists. Here you will find an overview of some great fall projects.

Whether you are starting from scratch or improving your existing garden, these guidelines and ideas will make it a cinch. Get ready to prepare your garden for next season with a little help from  
Riverside Nursery!



Good Night Garden  
Dividing Perennials  
Planting Bulbs & Other  
Fall Projects

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## September:

### DIVIDING PERENNIALS

#### When Do You Divide?

A good rule of thumb to remember when dividing perennials is to divide spring and summer bloomers in the fall and fall bloomers in the spring. When dividing in the fall, allow at least 4-6 weeks before the ground freezes so the plant can become established. When dividing in the spring, allow enough time for the roots to establish before hot weather arrives. Most perennials will perform better with division every 3-5 years. Signs that your perennials need dividing are flowers are smaller than normal, centers of the clumps become hollow or dead or when the bottom foliage becomes sparse and ragged. If your perennials are blooming well, leave them alone unless you are increasing your stock.

#### How Do You Divide?

Prior to dividing, water your plants deeply a day or two before. Prune the stems and foliage to approximately 6" from the ground. This will cut down on moisture loss. Use a shovel or spading fork to dig down deeply into the soil around the entire plant. Stay about 4-6" away from the foliage. Carefully lift the entire clump out of the ground. Divide the clump into as many sections as desired and carefully transplant it into its new location.

#### Can All Perennials Be Divided?

Some plants resent being divided and should be left alone in the garden. These include butterfly weed, euphorbias, oriental poppies, baby's breath, false indigo and columbines. Some perennials are just simply difficult to move, lenten rose falls into this category. Other perennials are actually small woody shrubs that should not be divided. These include candytuft, lavender, rosemary and wormwood. These plants often have branches that have developed roots while touching the soil. These layers can be cut off the parent plant, dug up and replanted as though they were divisions.

#### How and When...Some Common Perennials

Astilbe Every 2-3yrs. Early spring or fall. Spreading root division. Needs division for best bloom.

BeeBalm Every 3yrs. Can be invasive. Early spring or fall. Spreading root division.

Rudbeckia Every 3-4yrs. Early spring or fall. Spreading root division.

Blanket Fl. Every 1-2yrs. for vigor. Early spring. Spreading root division.

Bleeding Hrt. Rarely needs division. Early spring. Fleshy root division. Be gentle with brittle roots.

Daylily Every 3-6yrs. Spring, summer or fall. After bloom. Divide fleshy roots into segments.

Peony Rarely needs division. Fall. May take up to 3yrs to bloom after division.

Hosta Rarely needs division. Early spring or early fall. Fleshy root division.

Coneflower Every 4yrs. Spring or fall. Spreading root division.

Tall Sedum For plant increase. Spring. Clump division.

Tickseed Every 1-2yrs. for vigor. Spring or fall. Spreading root division. Discard weak center.

Yarrow Every 2-3yrs. Or when center dies out. Spring or fall. Spreading root division.

## October:

### INSTALLING BULBS

Installing bulbs now will give you the burst of spring color you're always looking for. With a little planning and creativity a small spring bulb display can go a long way!

#### Design now and Enjoy later!

The first and foremost design element when it comes to planting bulbs is *massing*. Using a large number of bulbs in a display will give you the impact you are looking for. A handful of tulips spaced too far apart in a foundation bed does nothing to catch your eye or create a bold statement. The same number of bulbs clumped together on either side of a walkway entrance can create a completely different impact. You don't need thousands of bulbs and acres of property to create a beautiful bulb display. Fewer masses of plants offer much more of an impact than a handful of scattered bulbs in a line. Consider putting your design on paper before the installation. Keep in mind bloom times and heights of different bulbs. Most varieties include an early, a mid and a late bloomer. Planned correctly you can easily have eight or more weeks of continuous bulb color in your spring garden.

#### Installation-

As with any other planting, proper preparation is vital. Not only knowing your exposure (full sun, partial sun, or shade) but also the quality of the soil will significantly impact the growth of your bulbs. Remember trees that have defoliated for fall will soon be filled with leaves in the spring and possibly shade your bulbs from getting the sunlight they need in order to photosynthesize properly. Prepare the area to be planted by digging in compost and bone meal. Be sure you've cultivated deep enough. A good rule of thumb is to plant your bulbs three times the diameter of the bulb. So, the bigger the bulb, the deeper you need to amend. Another option to consider is *layering* bulbs together. Larger bulbs can be placed at the bottom while smaller bulbs can be layered over top. This can extend your bloom season dramatically.

#### After Care-

As soon as your bulbs begin to break ground in the spring, side dress (fertilize) with bone meal. Fertilize again as the buds begin form. Be sure not to apply fertilizer directly to the leaves and always water it in afterwards. Once your bulbs have finally finished blooming, there are some keys steps to help keep them coming back year after year. Firstly, after the blooms have faded be sure to dead head the spent flowers and stems. Otherwise, wasted energy will go into producing seed heads instead of redirecting the energy back into the bulb for next year. Next, let all the foliage turn yellow before removing it. This is the way the bulb makes food to store for next season. Do not wrap or braid the foliage! Once it turns yellow, remove it at ground level. Following these simple guidelines will ensure a beautiful bulb display year after year!!

## November:

### GOOD NIGHT GARDEN

Late fall and early winter can still be an exciting time in the garden. Although the season is winding down there are still preparations that can (and should) be made for the following spring.

#### Bed Prep-

If you spent a good time of the growing season wishing you had more color in your garden (and less lawn to mow!) *now* is the time to prepare for next season. Preparing new planting beds in the fall is ideal. This gives the soil time to relax after tilling and turning. All your added compost and fertilizer has time to start breaking down during the off season and becomes more readily available for new spring plantings. The winter is also the best time to be spilling over catalogs and drawing up plans for any upcoming changes. Like so many things, proper planning prevents poor performance so a little goes a long way!

#### Tool Prep-

When you buy cheap garden tools you can simply throw them away when they wear out or break...if you buy quality tools they will last for many, many years assuming you use and *maintain* them properly.

1. Remove soil from digging tools after each use.
2. Wipe down blades of pruners, shears, and loppers with oily rag after each use.
3. Apply linseed oil to wooden handles at least once a year.
4. NEVER put tools away wet.
5. Sharpen cutting tools at least once a year.
6. Use WD40 to keep parts moving freely.

#### Sharpening Your Tools-

A Sharp Knife is a SAFE knife! When a knife is dull, cutting will require more force and more force makes it easier to slip and cut yourself. Sharpening your tools makes cutting easier and safer. Knives are not the only tools which will need to be sharpened. All cutting and chopping tools benefit from sharpening. Axes, pruners, shovels and even hoes.

#### Basic Sharpening Technique-

Remember—the angle matters! Take your time-SAFTEY FIRST!! Follow the factory bevel if your tool was sharp when you purchased it. Shovels are best at a 45 degree angle. Hoes are best at a 30-35 degree angle. Use long continuous strokes and avoid jerking motions while sharpening. Work in only one direction. Sand off burrs after sharpening. After sanding always move your hand PERPENDICULAR to the back edge when you are checking for burrs NEVER PARALLEL! Apply a light coat of oil to prevent rusting. Separate blades of hand pruners prior to sharpening. Remember to follow factory bevel. It is critical that the blunt edge of your pruner be filed at a 90 degree angle.

