

Dividing & Propagating Perennials

Prepared by:
Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Presented to
Lakeshore Environmental
Gardening Society



Master Gardeners of Ontario



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

[ABOUT US](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

[COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES](#)

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Etobicoke Master Gardeners (EMG) was formed in January 2005 and is meant to cover the west side of Toronto and take in those people who want to study for the Master Gardener (MG) designation.

Meetings are held at the [Montgomery Inn](#) on the fourth Wednesday of most months from 7 to 10 p.m.

EMG comprises 36 active members: 26 Master Gardeners (MG) and 10 Master Gardeners in Training (MGIT) who are in the process of studying for Master Gardener Certification. We welcome inquiries from enthusiastic and interested individuals wishing to learn more about joining our



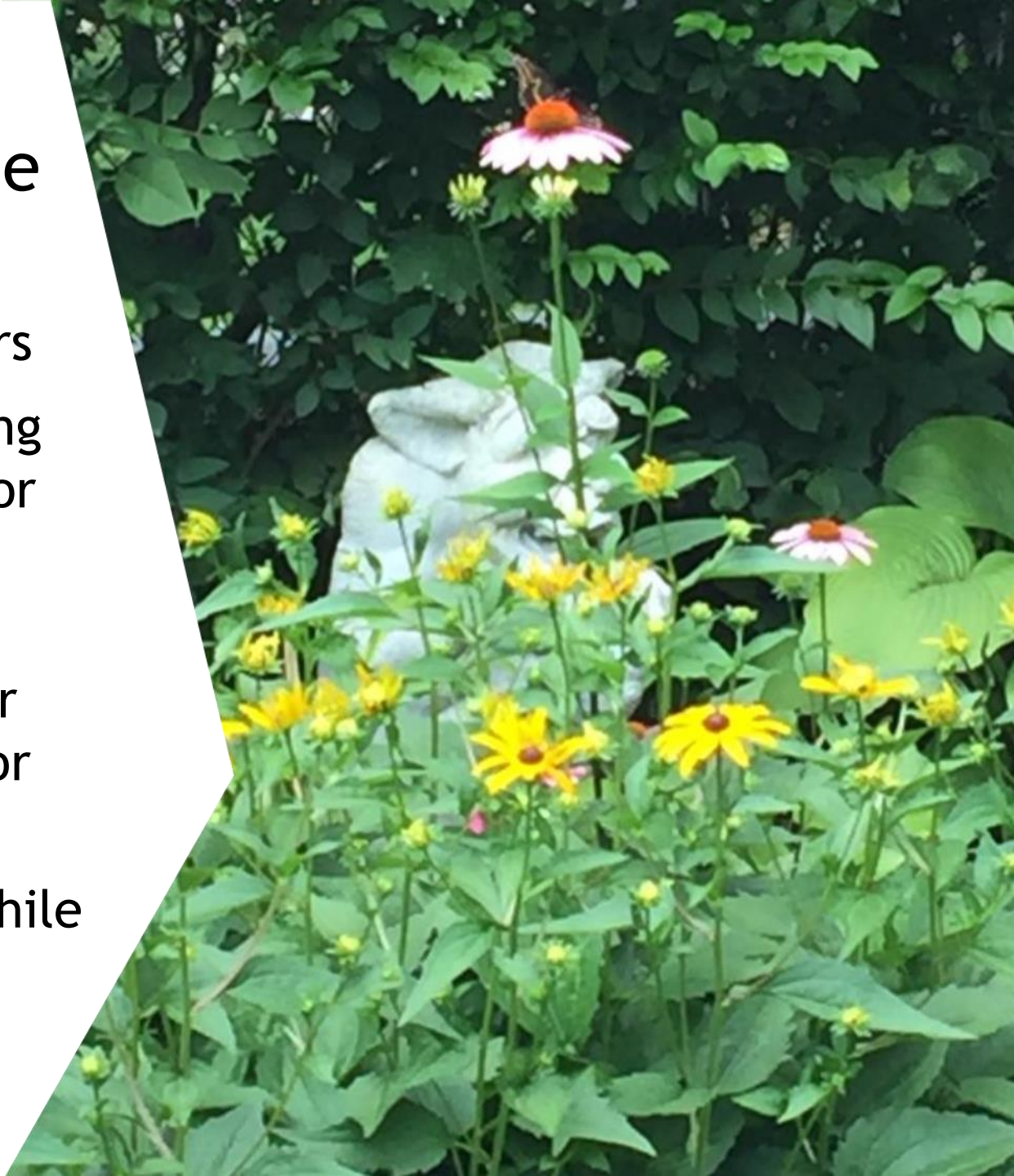
Why do you propagate or divide perennials?

- ✓ Rejuvenate the plant
- ✓ Control the size
- ✓ More of something you like
- ✓ Economic
- ✓ Variety



When to divide perennials?

- ✓ Every 3 to 5 years
- ✓ Summer-flowering plants in spring or autumn
- ✓ Spring-flowering plants in summer after flowering or autumn
- ✓ Usually divide while dormant
- ✓ Easy to locate plants



When to divide perennials?

- ✓ Fall blooming perennials in spring
- ✓ Reduced stress
- ✓ Early to allow roots time to establish
- ✓ Entire growing season



Some Tips



Minimize damage to the roots



Dig down, cleanly cutting roots beyond the drip line



Divide in situ for large clumps



Replenish the soil



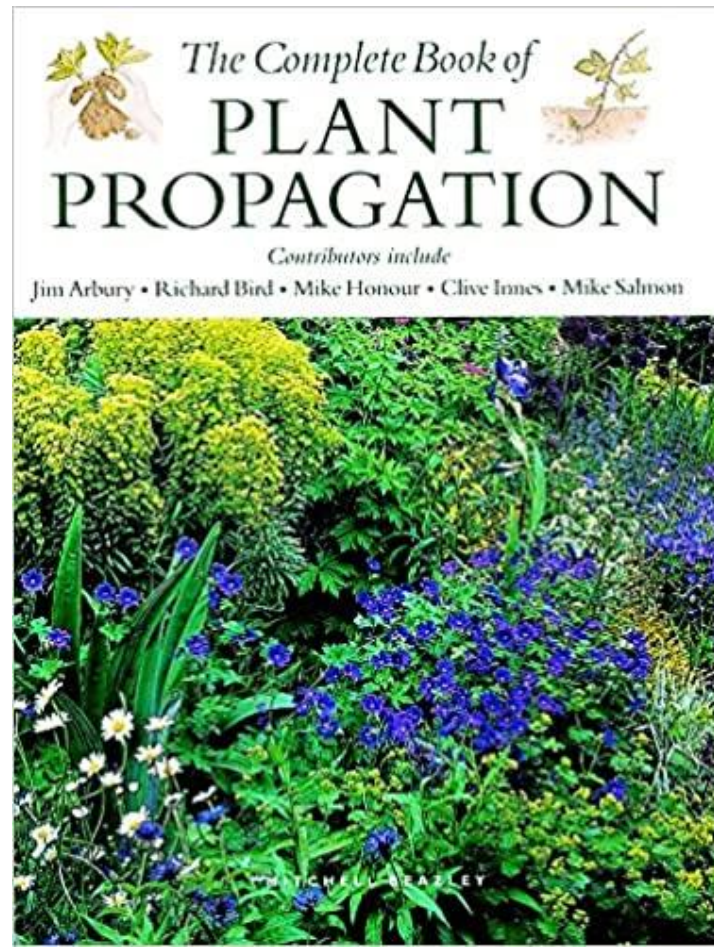
Reduce top growth to reduce stress of new plants



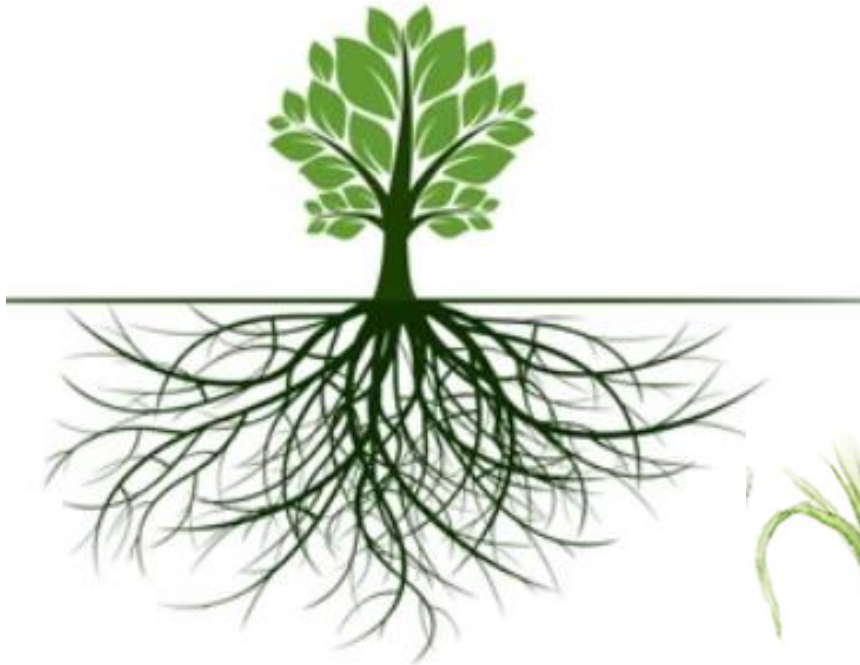
Best to divide in cool weather

Propagation methods

- ✓ Grow from seed
- ✓ Division
- ✓ Cuttings



Look at the roots



Spreading



Woody Crowns

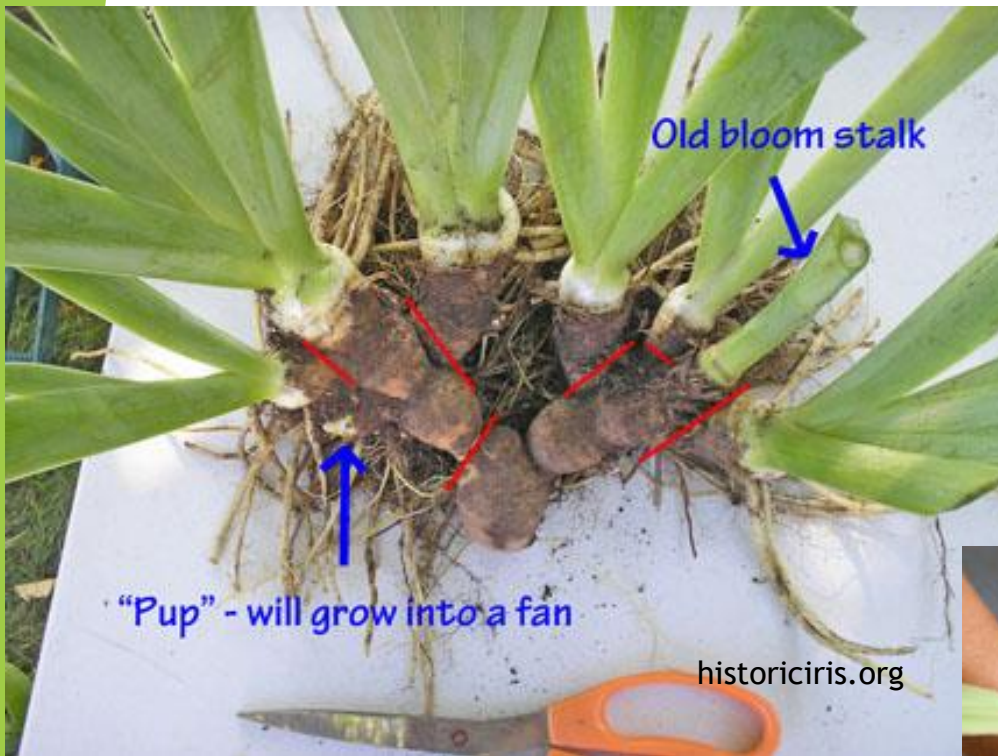


Clumping

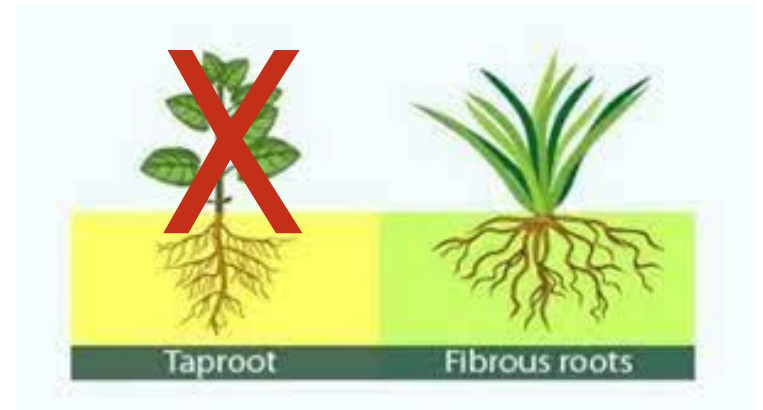
How to divide perennials?



Tubers & Rhizomes



Which Perennials Should Not be Divided?

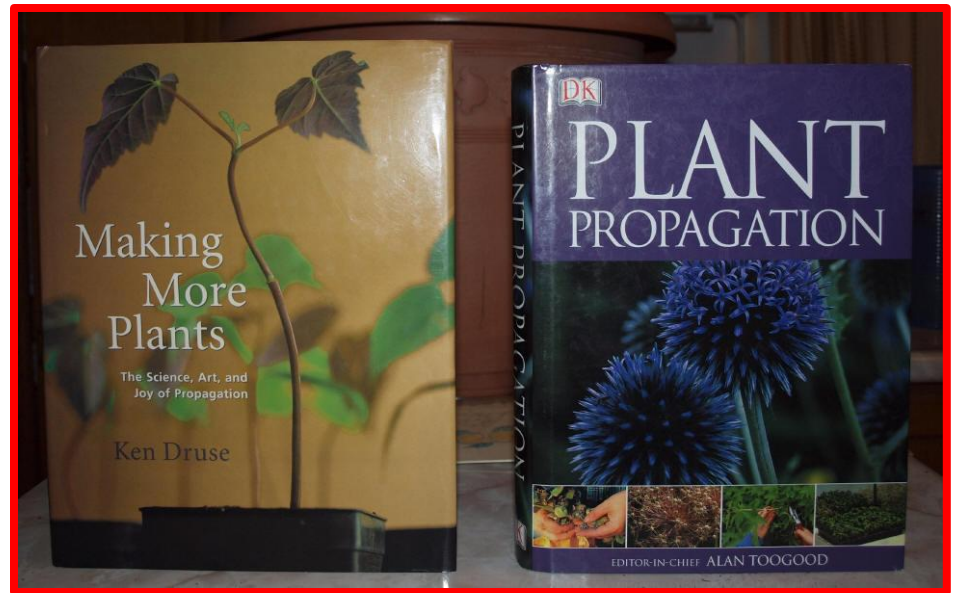


Some Tools



Cuttings

- ✓ Many plants are easy to root from cuttings
- ✓ Requirements may differ from plant to plant
- ✓ Submerge cuttings in a pail of soapy water before you bring them in
- ✓ Remove leaves from the bottom half of the stem



Cuttings

For Soft Plants
(e.g. Coleus):

- ✓ Take about 6" (15cm)
- ✓ Strip off the bottom leaves
- ✓ Put in water and wait until there is a good set of roots
- ✓ Transplant into potting medium



Cuttings

Harder stems (e.g. Bougainvillea)

- ✓ Take a short length of stem and strip off the bottom leaves
- ✓ Wound the bottom of the stem on one side (about 1" (2.54cm))
- ✓ Apply rooting hormone to the stem and push into pre-moistened potting medium



References

- ✓ How and when to divide perennials
<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/dividing-perennials>
- ✓ Dividing Perennials
<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/dividing-perennials>
- ✓ Dividing Perennials
<http://chemung.cce.cornell.edu/resources/dividing-perennials>



Etotobicoke Master Gardeners



HUMBER
ARBORETUM

2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series

Saturdays 10:00 AM to Noon

Virtual Sessions via Zoom

February 25: Plant Identification

March 4: Growing Your Own Food

April 15: Native Plants

April 29: Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives

June 10: Pollinator Friendly Gardening

October 14: Pruning

November 18: Indoor Plants

In-Person at the Humber Arboretum

February 4: Winterwood:
Winter Tree Identification Tour

May 6: First-hand Look at
Invasive Plants, Control, and
Alternatives Tour

October 21: Pruning Workshop

Free, but space is limited & registration is required:

[Humber.ca/arboretum/emg](https://humber.ca/arboretum/emg)



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Thank you!

Questions

