

Propagation using Division

Division is one of the simplest ways of increasing plant numbers. New plants formed from the division will be identical to the parent.

Division

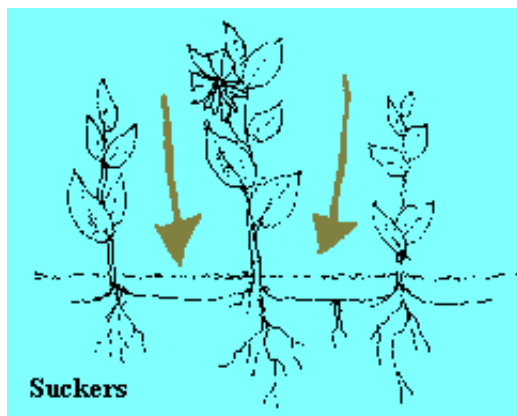
Only healthy plants should be used, and the division should be timed to take place at the onset of a new growing period.

- Remove the plant from the container, or dig from the ground using a strong garden fork. A fork is preferred rather than a spade as there will be less damage to the root system.
- Wash the root system with water to remove the soil and minimise root damage.
- Breaking the clumps up can be as simple as twisting the root clump by hand, or cutting, using a sharp knife (an old bread knife is excellent) or secateurs. For big clumps a spade or axe may be needed.
- Resist the temptation to cut the original plant into very small pieces, as they may not survive this treatment.
- Cut out any dead or damaged roots.
- Cut half the foliage from the new plants to compensate for the disturbance to the roots.
- Spread the remaining root system out evenly and downwards to allow for optimum development.
- Water the new plant thoroughly.

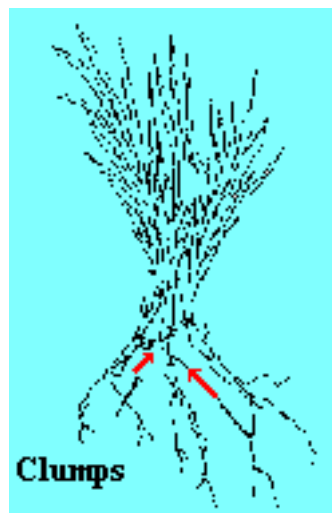
Plants that can be propagated by division.

Clumps, crowns, suckers, rhizomes, stolons, pseudobulbs or bulbs are the characteristics which allow these plants to be propagated by division.

Suckers - A sucker is a new shoot that develops underground for example some *Dampiera* spp.



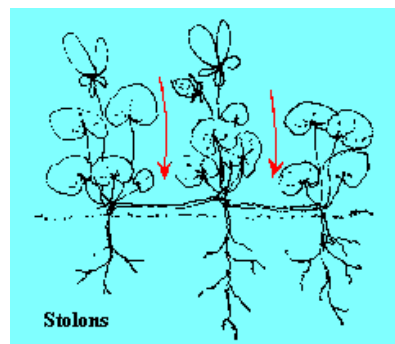
Clumps - The lilies and grasses belong to this group. Natural division can be seen within the original plant. These plants divide or separate easily.



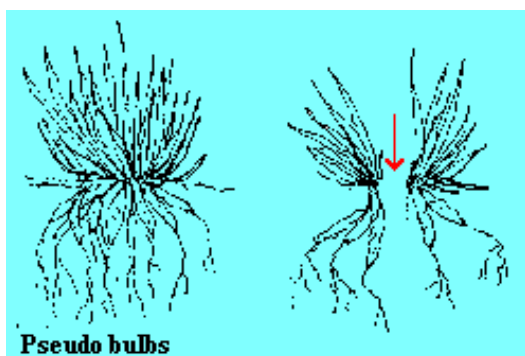
Rhizomes - Fleshy underground stems which look like roots, containing nodes and buds e.g. Anigozanthos & Dianella spp.



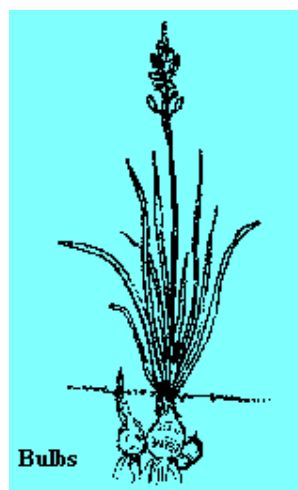
Stolons - Similar to rhizomes, but grow across the surface of the soil, developing roots at the nodes, e.g. *Viola hederacea*.



Pseudobulbs - Specialised swollen stems joined together by rhizome e.g. cymbidiums



Bulbs and Tubers - Easy to propagate, many will fall apart when dug up. Largest bulbs will most likely flower first, small ones will take longer to develop e.g. Crinum



Plants suitable for division

Plant	Comments	Season
<i>Adiantum species</i>	Hardy fern for shady areas	Late Winter
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	Ground cover- pink to purple flowers	Autumn
<i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i>	Cunjevoi lily for shady area	Winter
<i>Alpinia coerulea</i>	Native ginger with white flowers	Spring
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	Vanilla lily-hardy	Summer
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	Attractive fern- grow in hanging basket	Late Winter
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Fresh water fern	Summer
<i>Blechnum species</i>	Also by spore	Spring
<i>Calostemma purpureum</i>	Garland lily -also by seed	Spring
<i>Carex species</i>	Tufted sedge	Autumn
<i>Conostylis species</i>	Each piece needs several shoots-herb	Autumn
<i>Crinum species</i>	Native lily -also by seed	Autumn
<i>Cymbidium species</i>	Orchid- pseudobulb must have 2 shoots	After flowering
<i>Cymbogon ambiguus</i>	Native lemon grass	Summer
<i>Cyperus species</i>	Sedge to 1 metre	Autumn
<i>Dampiera species</i>	Not all species will divide-attractive herb	Autumn
<i>Danthonia species</i>	Kangaroo grass- slow to re-establish	Autumn
<i>Davallia pyxidata</i>	Hares foot fern	Spring
<i>Dendrobium species</i>	Orchid- 4 or more pseudobulbs	After flowering
<i>Derwentia species</i>	Perennial small shrub with blue flowers	Autumn

<i>Dianella species</i>	Flax lily- pretty blue flowers & seed	Autumn
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney weed- lawn substitute	Spring
<i>Dichopogon strictus</i>	Chocolate lily- tubers form on roots	Autumn
<i>Diplarrena moraea</i>	Iris- flowers white	Autumn
<i>Disphyma crassifolium</i>	Prostrate succulent	Spring
<i>Doodia species</i>	Rasp fern- also by spore	Spring
<i>Doryanthes excelsa</i>	Gynea lily- also by seed	Spring/ Autumn
<i>Goodenia affinis</i>	Prostrate herb- treat rosettes as cuttings	Summer
<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	Prostrate herb	Autumn
<i>Helmholtzia glaberrima</i>	Stream lily- white flowers	Autumn
<i>Hydrocotyle species</i>	Lawn substitute	Spring/ Summer
<i>Lobelia membranacea</i>	Prostrate- striking blue flowers	Spring/ Summer
<i>Marsilea drummondii</i>	Nardoo- water plant	Summer/ Autumn
<i>Mazus pumilio</i>	Lawn substitute- blue, white flowers	Spring/ Summer
<i>Muehlenbeckia axillaris</i>	Prostrate- very hardy in sun or shade	Autumn
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Lotus flower- water plant	Spring
<i>Poa species</i>	Native grasses	Spring
<i>Polystichum australiense</i>	Fern forms bulbils on tips of fronds	All year
<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	Spreading moss-like cushion plant	Spring
<i>Stackhousia species</i>	Perennial herb	Autumn
<i>Stypantra species</i>	Variable tufted plant with blue flowers	Autumn
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native violet	All year
<i>Wahlenbergia species</i>	Native bluebells	Summer/ Autumn