

I am my Uncle Ted's namesake. When I was born, Colonel Theodore Wenzlaff was stationed in Europe fighting in WWII. Later in life, I knew I was one of his favorite nephews. Although he's been dead for some time, I will never forget his interesting sense of humor. While in grade school, Uncle Ted always quizzed me about how well I was doing in school. Perhaps when I was a second or third grader, I vividly remember him asking me, if I knew my *goes into's*. Obviously, I had no idea what he was asking. Then with a big grin on his face he explained, "You know, like two goes into four or five goes into twenty." I've always thought, what a goofy name for division, but I've never forgotten. As a matter of fact, now I find myself asking my grandchildren the very same question.

To quote my Uncle Ted, today I ask you, "How well do you know your *goes into's*?" Yes, I'm asking you about division, but in this case, not math division but rather garden division. Now that spring has arrived, garden division can be a high priority.

Creating a landscape of beautiful plants usually involves a sizable investment. I realized long ago that grouping and repeating plants makes for a better appearance than one plant here and one plant there. To achieve this look, it means buying multiple plants of the same species. Such action can quickly deplete one's gardening dollars. The good news is one can also achieve this look by utilizing plants that easily propagate. Note, I'm not referring to those plants deemed invasive, but rather those that don't mind being divided — and there are many,

A few examples include, but are not limited to, Anemone, Aster, Brunnera, Campanula, Coreopsis, Day Lily, Delphinium, Gaillardia, Gentian, Geranium, Hosta, Iris, Lily-of-the-valley, Monarda, Mum, Ornamental Grass, Peony, Phlox, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Sea Holly and Sedum.

Division of perennials is often mandatory. Many benefit from division every three to five years just to keep them healthy and thriving. Furthermore, division increases the number of plants. However, keep in mind, because a plant is capable of being divided, doesn't always mean it should be divided. Allow me to share a few tips on plant division.

- Spring or fall is the best time for dividing. For the most part, avoid dividing in the heat of summer or during a hot stretch of weather.
- Select a cloudy day to divide or divide in early evening as the sun is beginning to set.
- Only divide healthy plants. Don't wait until a plant has become weakened or sickly to divide.
- Attempt to get as much of the root mass as possible.

- Before lifting and dividing, ensure the plant has been well watered.
- Loosen the soil where the new division is to be transplanted so the roots of the new division will spread easily and establish quickly.
- Make sure the division transplants are planted at the same depth they were previously growing.
- Water the new divisions immediately after planting and avoid fertilizing.
- If flowers develop shortly after division, remove them. New plants must spend their energies becoming established and not blooming

Having a landscape of beautiful plants does involve a sizable investment. Furthermore, grouping and repeating plants always makes for a better arrangement. To achieve this look, consider buying those plants that can be easily divided —that can save you dollars.

Right now, I'm thinking, if my Uncle Ted were still alive today, he'd probably say, "These plants are great at their *goes into's*."