

Splitting perennials

Here's how you can gain from splitting one perennial clump to make many: A 10-inch perennial clump (left) has 100 square inches of surface area to draw on for water and nutrients. Divided into four sections, planted six inches apart, its divisions draw on a combined 144 square inches of surface. In addition, the leapfrog between top and root growth can happen in larger jumps. When a division grows one inch of root beyond its initial space, its resource area increases by 77 percent. The mother plant, with an inch of new growth all around its edge, gains only 44 percent.

