

Dividing herbaceous perennials

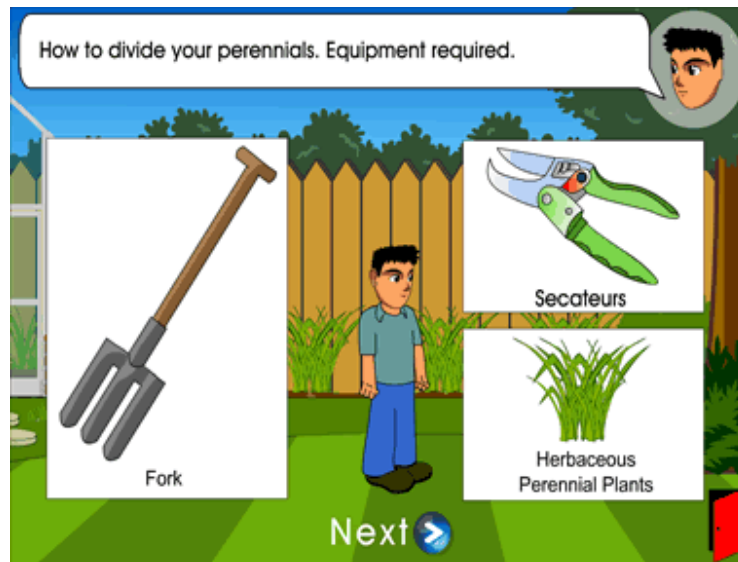
Most herbaceous perennials need dividing every 3 to 5 years to stay healthy and continue flowering.

When to divide perennials

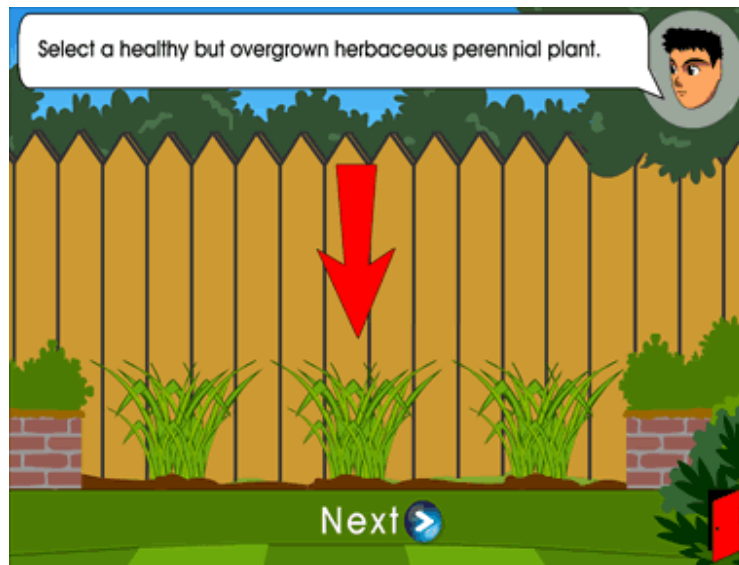
- Divide the plant in late Autumn or early Spring

Tools required

- Fork
- Spade
- Watering can
- Sharp knife or Secateurs
- Trowel



1. Select a healthy but overgrown herbaceous perennial plant.



2. Ease the fork under the whole plant and then lever the plant out of the ground.



3. Lift the plant out of the ground using the fork.



4. Gently shake off any extra soil from around the roots.



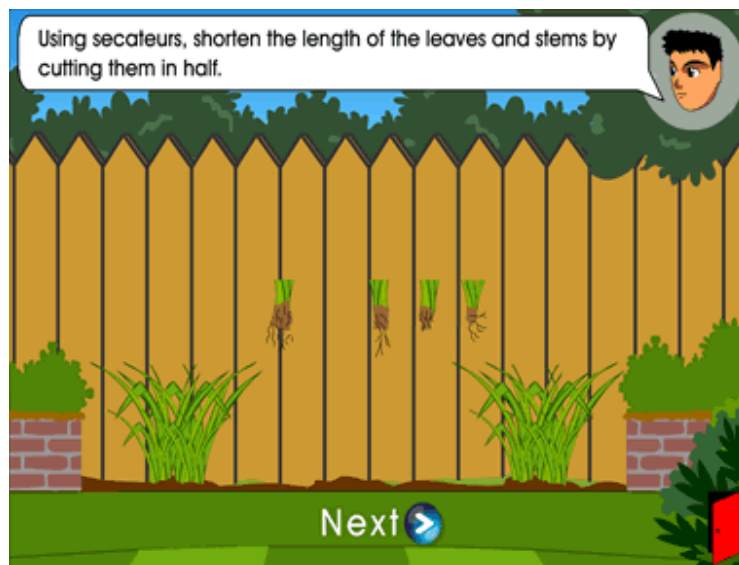
5. Cut off any dead leaves, flowers and roots, diseased and old parts of the plant.



6. Divide the plant into smaller clumps each with a few shoots and roots.



7. Using secateurs, shorten the length of the leaves and stems by cutting them in half.



8. Replant the new plants in the border and water as soon as possible to prevent the plant from drying out.



Aftercare

- If replanting the new plants in the same flower border, feed the plant by adding rotted garden compost or a general fertilizer to the soil
- Watering – occasionally check the plant to see if it drying out and water if necessary
- The plant may need staking later in the year