HOME AND GARDEN COLUMN

GROW NEW PLANTS FROM OLD

With spring just around the corner, it is time to start propagating some of the plants in your landscape. Propagation is the concept of multiplying plants. By doing your own propagation, you can increase the number of plants in your landscape and, at the same time, decrease your landscaping costs.

Plants with clumping growth habits, such as daylilies, bromeliads, ornamental grasses, and liriope, should be propagated now, just before the growing season. The method of propagation used for clumping plants is called division. It involves propagating or creating a new plant from a section of the parent plant. When propagating by division, the propagated plant will have the same desired characteristics as the parent plant.

Herbaceous perennials, with the clumping growth habit, are the most common plants propagated by division, however, several woody plants can be propagated successfully by this means. Propagating these plants simply involves separating the clump of the plant into pieces, making sure that each plant has adequate roots and shoots for reestablishment.

This can be done by either excavating the entire plant and then dividing it into pieces or selectively digging out a piece of the parent plant at a time.

A small clump with one to two shoots and adequate roots for transplanting is sufficient for starting a new plant. Some plants may be real woody and require an ax or saw to separate them or they may be soft and succulent and can be separated by hand. Don't be afraid to cut through these tough roots, you will not hurt the plants.

Once divided, the pieces of the plant should be replanted. You can replant them directly into the landscape or into containers. If planting into containers, use a container with drainage holes and a well-drained potting mix.

You want to make sure that new plants are planted at the same depth as they grew originally in the landscape. If planted too deep, they may rot and die. If planted too shallow, they will have the tendency to dry out more often.

Click here for more information on propagating plants

New Hours For Master Gardener Plant Clinic

The Master Gardener Plant Clinic has increased and changed the hours for people to ask and bring in plant problems and questions.

The hours are from 10 AM to 2 PM daily, Monday to Friday.

Jennifer Welshans
Horticulture Agent
Osceola County Extension Service
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane
Kissimmee, FL 34744
321-697-3000