

June 2019

- **I need to move my hellebores. How and when do I do this?**

Hellebores should only be moved when necessary, but if you are already moving the Hellebore anyway it is an optimal time to also divide it. Hellebores are best transplanted and/or divided in September or October. Hellebores initiate a burst of root growth in autumn and so the best time to divide them is immediately prior to this spurt of root development. This allows the growth of new roots to settle in the newly divided plants at once.

If you wish to divide the hellebores when moving them you should dig up the whole plant by digging an 8-inch-deep circle around the hellebore plant, 6 inches from its outermost leaves. Once loose lift the plant from the ground and wash the crown free of soil so you can see what you are doing and then cut between the growth buds with a sharp knife. If you leave at least three buds in each division the plant will recover more quickly. Each new division must have a minimum of one bud (preferably 2-3 growth buds), some woody rhizome tissue, and some growing roots. Each little transplant should then be planted with plenty of organic matter in a partially shaded location and watered thoroughly. When you're done, mulch around the transplants with a layer of leaf mulch or compost and continue to water regularly until established.

Sources

Hellebore Care Instructions <https://northwestgardennursery.com/our-hellebores/culture/>

Transplanting a

Hellebore <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/hellebore/dividing-hellebore-plants.htm>

How to Divide Helleborus <https://www.gardenguides.com/12460286-how-to-divide-helleborus.html>