

DIG, DIVIDE & DONATE

for the 2026 St. George's Plant Sale



WHAT PLANTS TO CHOOSE TO DONATE:

Your garden perennials should all be growing bigger each year. Walk around your gardens with a note pad and make the following choices. You may have plants that have grown substantially, or are in the wrong place. Some may be crowding out other plants, or getting too much sun, or too much shade, are too tall or too short, or forced on you by a neighbour, or you have just never liked them. Some may no longer be performing, or may have a bald spot in the middle. Make a list. Dividing or splitting up perennials into multiple plants helps plants perform better. When perennials are divided, there is more space for roots to grow and absorb nutrients and water. You will be surprised how many plants you can find to divide, dig and donate. And your garden will look better afterwards!

WHEN TO DIG AND POT UP:

Dig as early as possible when the weather warms up in late April or early May to enable your plants to become acclimatized to their pot environment, and be thriving by the sale. Store your potted and labeled plants in the shade and water weekly. Plants potted up the week before the sale will be wilted and scraggly and **will either be rejected**, or will have to be **priced much lower or relegated to the ½ price Remainder Table. Please do not bother with plants that are less than 4" in diameter – as we will NOT accept them.**

For next year's plant sale, plan on digging and potting up your plants in the FALL, while you still know what they are. After digging them up, put the plants in a pot, then put them back in the ground so the top of the pot is no higher than before you dug it up.

WHAT POTS TO USE:

Choose a pot that is at least 6" in diameter. If the plant is really big, use a 1-gallon or 2-gallon pot with 8-10" diameter. The important thing is that there should be at least a ½" to 1" space between the plant ball and the inside side of the pot, all the way around. Ask your neighbours for extra pots, or contact a local landscaper. St. George's will have FREE pots available in the gray box at the back door of the church. **ALL POTS MUST HAVE DRAIN HOLES IN THE BOTTOM!**

NOTE: We will no longer be accepting plants that are less than 4" diameter, or pots that are less than 6" in diameter. The work involved in digging, dividing, donating, receiving, watering, caring for, organizing, pricing, selling and accounting for a small plant is the same as for a plant that looks lush and healthy.

HOW TO DIG & DIVIDE:

1. You may decide to dig up the whole plant and replant a part of it as a more suitable size for the space you have. Then divide the remaining plant into pieces, just the right size to fit into a 6", 8" or 10" diameter pot with adequate space around outside edge (see above). This will invigorate new root growth. If you don't want to disturb the whole plant, cut off a section across the back or side, or cut out a V-shaped wedge from the back to the middle. No one will notice and the mother plant will quickly fill up the space.
2. Trim off any long roots with a sharp knife and shape the plant ball to fit within the 6", 8" or 10" pot with ½" to 1" space all around so you can add compost and Bone Meal. You can use a fancy Japanese Hori Hori serrated knife, available for \$39.50 from Lee Valley Tools, or an 8" stainless steel serrated knife used for cutting fiberglass insulation, available at Home Hardware for just \$9.99. It's your choice.

GETTING THE PLANT INTO THE POT SO IT WILL LIVE & THRIVE:

1 The materials you will need to pot up the plants.

- a) The right size pot. (See POTS above.)
- b) Use some of your best crumbly compost. If you don't have any compost, it is available FREE at the Meaford Municipal Yard on the 7th line. At the Clarksburg Dump, it costs 6 cents a kilogram, about \$3 for a good sized "Blue Box" full. Get a couple of boxes or garbage bags full.
- c) Get a box of Bone Meal fertilizer. Look for a 4-10-0 Bone Meal with a high second number for the Phosphorous that promotes rapid root growth.
- d) A sharp knife (see above).

2. The Potting Procedure

- a) First add about an inch or 2 of compost to the bottom of the pot.
- b) Sprinkle in a little Bone Meal and mix it around so it won't burn the roots.
- c) Tamp it down firmly.
- d) Place the root ball into the pot so the crown (the top of the plant) is about ½" below the edge of the pot to allow easy watering. You may have to add more compost to the bottom of the pot to bring the crown up to this level.
- e) Fill in the space between the root ball and the inside wall of the pot with compost, forcing it down with straight fingers. It is most important to eliminate any air holes around the roots. These may kill the plant.
- f) Use a 12-inch wooden ruler, or a slat from a shutter to tamp the soil down the side of the pot to the bottom on all sides.
- g) Sprinkle a little more Bone Meal around the top of the new soil at the edge of the pot.

- h) Then water thoroughly, making sure that the water gets to the bottom of the pot. If there is any question about complete water penetration, place the watered pot and plant in a pan with 2" of water in the bottom for an hour.
- i) Then place the newly potted plant in a shady place until St. George's Plant Intake Day.
- j) Water once a week as needed.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION - DONOR & PLANT LABELS

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF POTTING UP TO GET A TAX RECEIPT.

We will supply you with a Plant Donor Kit which will contain a Sharpie waterproof marker pen, plus the number of Yellow Donor labels and White Plant ID labels that you think you will need, plus a few extras. Additional labels are available from the church or by contacting us at stg.plantsale@gmail.com. Please register as a donor (if you haven't done so already), let us know approximately how many plants you expect to donate, and confirm what initials you'd like to use. **EACH PLANT YOU DONATE MUST HAVE A YELLOW DONOR LABEL WITH AT LEAST THREE INITIALS ON IT, PLUS A PLANT IDENTIFICATION LABEL WITH THE DETAILS ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR PLANT (SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW) TO BE ACCEPTED ON PLANT INTAKE DAY.**

YELLOW PLANT DONOR LABELS

On each Plant Donor label, use the "FINE" Sharpie to write your initials **1" below the top**. This will guarantee that the **AMOUNT YOUR PLANTS SELL FOR** will be credited to your Donor Account. To avoid confusion, at least **3 initials are required**. Our pricing crew will add the sale price above your initials. As our customers pay for their plants, we will collect the yellow Donor labels and assign the sale price to your initials on our donor list. Then we will calculate the amount of the Income Tax Receipt we will issue to each plant donor in February next year after the plant sale.

WHITE PLANT ID LABELS

The information about each plant you donate should be as complete as possible. With the advent of the many free "Plant ID Apps" available on our cell phones, it has become vastly easier to create complete and accurate plant labels with ALL the information needed. Also, the **GOOGLE GARDENER** can be a valuable source of plant information. **PLEASE** use the "ULTRA FINE" Sharpie pen from your donor kit to provide the information listed below for each plant you donate. And you thought the digging was the hard work!

- a) Common Name, Variety Name
- b) Latin Name, if possible.
- c) Ideal Light Exposure: Full Sun, Partial Shade, or Full Shade
- h) Bloom Time: Spring, Summer. Fall.
- e) Bloom Colour
- f) Length of Bloom Time: e.g. May-July, Sept-Oct.
- f) Height: Inches or Cm

- g) Spread: Inches or cm
- h) Clumping or Spreading (if known)
- i) Soil Requirements: Dry Sandy soil, Damp Boggy soil, well drained soil.

GARDEN TREASURES

For the last couple of years, we've had a "Garden Treasures" table – with beautiful ceramic and clay pots, plant hangers, bird feeders, garden art, and various gardening tools – ie treasures from your garden that are "too good to be through". It was a huge success!!

If you've got similar items you'd like to donate for our 2026 Garden Treasures table(s), we're happy to have them. Please use at least a yellow donor label, and include a white label to identify anything special about the item and what it is used for (unless it's obvious, in which case, no white label is required). Please figure out a way to affix your label(s) – either with an elastic around the handle, or place your label(s) in the bottom of each pot, or tape your label(s) to the outside, etc. Bottom line, your plant label(s) should be easy to see and access.

**PLANT INTAKE DAYS: Wed, MAY 27, 2026, 10am – 3pm, or
Thurs, MAY 28, 10am to 12noon**

Please bring your plants and garden treasures to the church parking lot at 166 Russell St during one of the above times. If you cannot bring your donations in that timeframe, please contact us at stg.plantsale@gmail.com to arrange an alternate time. Please DO NOT drop off your plants/garden treasures in the parking lot or bring them to the church outside of the above times. Before bringing your plants, please water them, and make sure each plant pot has both a Yellow Plant Donor Label (with at least 3 initials) and a completed White Plant ID label.

Upon arrival, if we do not have it already, we will enter your personal ID information into our Plant Donor Registry and will have volunteers to help you unload. It would be very helpful if your plants are on or in your vehicle in order of light exposure, i.e. sun plants first, partial shade plants second and shade plants third. This is our primary sort. And finally, any speciality plants like Pollinator Plants, or shrubs, herbs, etc., last.

If you have over 50 plants or garden treasures to donate this year, first, a hearty thank you! But please contact us at stg.plantsale@gmail.com to arrange for a specific time to bring your wonderful, generous donation to the church, ideally on May 26th, which we have reserved for large garden intake. And if you need help transporting your plants to the church, we can arrange this for you.

Thank you for supporting the St. George's Annual Plant Sale!!