

Digging, Dividing, and Storing Tips

DSO Meeting 10/15/2010

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Digging – Ideal

Cut after frost has killed plant; leave ~6" to handle clump (max time for tuber development).

Place tag in center hole or tape to stem.

Let sit in ground for ~1 week to develop eyes.

Dig around plant to break roots and let sit for ~3 days to toughen roots.

Loosen and lift clumps to surface in place.

Wash with strong stream of water, then wash clumps individually to remove all dirt.

Pile clumps in a wheelbarrow to dry slowly for several days.

Dividing

Remove hair roots and mother tuber, if possible, to improve access to new tubers.

Cut away tubers with broken necks or that are otherwise damaged.

Identify desired tubers and plan cuts to separate them.

Consider combinations of tubers where appropriate.

Use best and sharpest tools to make cuts to separate tubers to be stored.

Storing

Shake and bake tubers in vermiculite (with tiny amount of Sulpher?).

Wrap tubers in plastic wrap, keeping tubers separated from one another.

Close plastic wrap with tape; label contents on tape.

Keep listing of tubers stored.

Place packages of tubers in boxes and store in a cool, dry location (insulated against outside basement wall, e.g.). Target 45 – 50F if possible. Do not let freeze!

Check occasionally if possible.