

# Lomatium bicolor



## Double the Beauty: Propagating the Striking Lomatium bicolor

The *Lomatium bicolor*, also known as the Wasatch Desert Parsley or the Two-toned Desert Parsley, is an eye-catching addition to any garden, especially those embracing a xeriscape design. This hardy perennial, native to the western United States, enchants with its umbels of tiny yellow flowers contrasted against red-tinged stems, creating a visual spectacle that buzzes with pollinators in the spring.

While procuring this unique beauty from a reputable nursery is always an option, propagating *Lomatium bicolor* yourself can be deeply rewarding and surprisingly simple. Here are the two most effective ways to expand your collection:

### 1. [Seed Propagation](#): A Game of Patience & Timing

- **When to Sow:** For best results, sow *Lomatium bicolor* seeds outdoors in the fall, ideally after the first frost. This cold period helps in stratifying the seeds, mimicking their natural cycle for optimal germination in the spring.
- **Sowing Depth:** Plant the seeds at a depth of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in well-draining soil. A mix formulated for cacti and

succulents works well.

- **Location, Location, Location:** Choose a spot that enjoys full sun to partial shade and boasts excellent drainage. Waterlogged soil is the nemesis of this drought-tolerant beauty.
- **Patience is Key:** Germination can be erratic, with some seeds sprouting within a few weeks while others might take their time, even until the following spring. Remember, good things come to those who wait.

## 2. Division: Multiplying Your Floral Treasures

- **The Best Time:** Late summer or early fall, when the plant's active growth period is ending, is the ideal time for division.
- **Unearthing the Gem:** Carefully dig up a mature *Lomatium bicolor* plant, ensuring you get as much of the root system as possible.
- **The Art of Division:** Use a clean, sharp knife or garden spade to divide the plant into sections, making sure each segment has a good amount of roots and shoots attached.
- **Replanting:** Place the divided sections in pre-prepared holes that are the same depth they were previously growing. Space them about 1-2 feet apart to allow for healthy expansion.
- **Post-Division Care:** Water the newly divided plants well and provide consistent moisture until they get established.

### A Few Extra Tips for Success:

- *Lomatium bicolor* thrives in well-draining, sandy or rocky soil. Avoid overly rich soils, as they can lead to leggy growth and reduce flowering.
- Once established, this plant is remarkably drought tolerant, requiring watering only during extended dry spells.

- Deadhead spent flower stalks to encourage more blooms and prevent unwanted self-seeding.
- While *Lomatium bicolor* is not particularly susceptible to pests or diseases, be vigilant and address any issues promptly.

Propagating your own *Lomatium bicolor* is a rewarding experience that allows you to connect with this unique plant on a deeper level. So, roll up your sleeves, get your hands in the soil, and enjoy the process of expanding your floral horizons with this captivating desert dweller.