



Instructions for Softwood, Semi-Hardwood, and Hardwood Cuttings

Sandy Yakob, UCMG

1. Equipment for taking the cutting:
 - a. Nips
 - b. Plastic bags
 - c. Tags/post-its
 - d. Pencil/pen
 - e. Cooler with ice or icepack
 - f. Alcohol swabs

2. Equipment for sticking the cutting
 - a. Clear plastic bin as greenhouse – holes drilled in bottom with layer of gravel, grit or even bark
 - b. Nips/potato peeler
 - c. Pots
 - d. Soil
 - e. Water
 - f. Pencil
 - g. Tags
 - h. Hormone

Before you go out to take cuttings:

1. Prepare pots
 - i. Fill with soil
 - ii. Water thoroughly

2. Prepare your bin
 - i. Drill holes
 - ii. Add layer of grit/gravel/sand

3. Prepare your worksurface
 - i. Clean
 - ii. Compost catch
 - iii. Labels
 - iv. Pencil, etc.
 - v. Hormone

Let's take a cutting!

- a. Go early in the day, if possible.
- b. Select healthy plants with new growth *unless mother plant is in danger of being lost*
- c. If at a public area or someone else's garden - invisible
- d. Clean nips with swab
- e. Write your tag and stick it in a plastic bag for cuttings
- f. Take the cutting – remember to keep an extra inch for re-cutting later – good cuttings aren't too soft or too hard
- g. Place the cutting with its label in a bag
- h. Put the bag in the cooler
- i. Note on cleaning nips – does not need to be done after each plant unless unhealthy or unknown habitat
- j. Keep cuttings cool until ready to stick – refrigerator crisper drawer up to two days

Let's stick!

- a. Remove a cutting from the bag – do not lose the label :>
- b. Trim the leaves (if a large leafed plant) and snap out the terminal bud (yikes!) if required
- c. Nip the bottom of the cutting to make a clean cut
- d. Scrape the bark/cambium from the cutting with sharp pruners or potato peeler - not too deep
- e. Dust with hormone – poured into small cup – tap off excess
- f. Make hole in pot with pencil/chopstick/stick
- g. Introduce cutting to pot
- h. Press soil firmly against stem
- i. Write label and add to pot
- j. Put in bin

Into the greenhouse!

- a. Once bin is full, water all cuttings gently
- b. Close the lid
- c. Place the bin in an area of light, but not direct sun
- d. Go away. For 4-6 weeks
- e. Open the bin part way and tug on cutting – if it resists, its rooted – if not, close the lid and go away another 2 weeks
- f. Once rooted, begin to open the bin lid, letting in more air each few days
- g. Leave in uncovered bin thru winter (in a safe place) or, keep lid on and water on occasion*
- h. In spring, remove from bin, and repot into larger pots
- i. Set outside after frost – should be able to plant in fall, or leave outside in pots

Things to note:

- Copyright – you can propagate copyrighted plants as long as you only use them in your yard
- Propagation does take patience – try not to bother the bin for the first 4-6 weeks other than to thump the top and make it rain
- You will lose cuttings – do not get discouraged!
- Questions? Contact us at ucmgwebsite@gmail.com