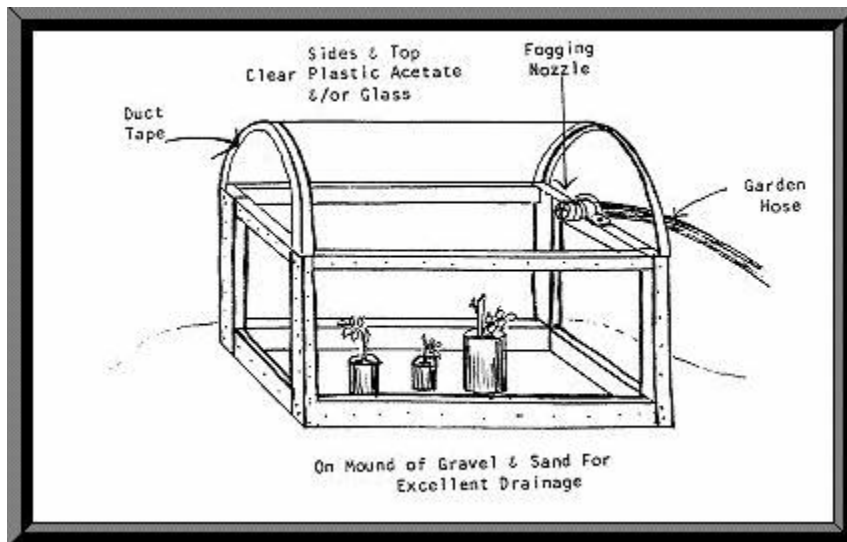


BUILDING A MISTING CABINET

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Mist on potted cuttings is a means of speeding up the rooting process. Place the cuttings in a sterile medium in sterile pots. (I use plastic foam party cups with the bottoms sliced well for drainage.) I also dip the cutting ends that are to go in the rooting medium in a weak solution of Rootone or Triple Consan 20 before inserting. Be sure the pots each have drainage beneath them as well as the entire Misting cabinet. Any good wooden box will suffice, or an old aquarium makes an excellent Misting Cabinet; with the glass on the sides solid but out on the top and bottom, a sloped dome top can be made from plastic acetate and taped on with duct tape to make it a controlled environment and to permit the moisture to drain down the sides and not drip into the pots.

Clear acetate plastic may be purchased at an art store. It is not expensive and is practical because the sun does not destroy it or cloud the plastic. It also has the ability to hold its shape quite well, and plain scissors cut it easily. The misting cabinet should be in bright light but not necessarily sunlight all day. The cuttings begin to root within a few hours of planting and by keeping them in shade the first few days they can have a chance to concentrate on underground (root) growth. They should be in a protected location at all times so hot sun, rough winds, and other elements do not disturb them. Good drainage cannot be stressed enough, and NEVER use any fertilizers!

Some people recommend keeping the fogger/mister on full time but I prefer to turn mine on about 11 a.m. and turn it off in the late afternoon, about 4 p.m. One method I have used was having mine on a timer that came on every 3 to 5 minutes for a brief period, the length being determined each day by the temperature and humidity at that time. This kind of timer is rather expensive for the casual grower. An inexpensive timer that comes on every 4 hours

works very well, also. In any case, be sure your hose fittings are excellent and all washers and weak fittings replaced before you start with any kind of a misting program.

Rooting medium for most misting systems include "playbox" sand, or mortar sand, and sterile soil. I like to include a good amount of perlite in mine to assure drainage with so much water present while under mist. Do not use any vermiculite in a misting program as it will hold water like a sponge and drown your cuttings.