

TIPS ON PROPAGATING ROSES ON THEIR OWN ROOTS

Have your materials ready! (One gallon ziplock baggies, soil, peat pots & Sharpie pen).

Water the mother plant *the night before* if at all possible.

Cut only clean wood, *preferably* from a bloom that is already spent -- this is very important -- good wood produces good plants.

If transporting cuttings from another location, keep them moist & cool in an ice chest.

Dampen your peat pots & soil -- have them made up *before* you start setting the cuttings.

Do not take cuttings from your own plants until you are ready to start setting -- they would just dehydrate.

It has been my experience that, the fresher the cuttings are from the plant, the better.

If you have transported cuttings, try not to hold them more than 2-3 days in the refrigerator.

Select pencil size (1/4 to 6 inch) cuttings.

Cuttings from below where the flowers have bloomed root best.

Leave the topmost foliage, pull the other leaves off. Also, break off any thorns that will be below ground as these are avenues for roots to develop.

Make the bottom cut at about a 45 degree angle just below where a leaf has been pulled off (this is where the root developing cells are located).

All transported cuttings must have a fresh cut (this is the time to use a rooting hormone if you wish).

Make the hole for the cutting with your finger, set the cutting in & press the soil tightly around the stem.

When you have made four cuttings, put them in a one gallon plastic bag.

Blow air into the bag & seal shut -- label the bag with the rose's variety name and date.

Hang the bags on a clothesline, fence, etc. outside, but make sure they are in the shade.

During this part of the rooting stage, additional watering is not usually necessary if moisture is present in each corner of the baggie -- this is the sign that the moisture is sufficient to maintain your "mini greenhouse".

You can check for roots by looking through the bag -- they usually develop within four to six weeks during the growing season -- new leaf growth is always promising, but don't remove your cuttings at this point.

Take them out of the bag only after you see roots growing through the peat pot.

Put the rooted plants in a container (approximately one gallon) -- water with a weak alfalfa tea or "Super Thrive" and keep in the shade for about two weeks.

After the plant has grown roots into the transplanted pot, it is time to put your rose in the ground.

If you garden by the moon sign, cuttings take best when set in a water sign; Cancer, Scorpio or Pisces.

Llewellyn's Moon Sign Garden Almanac is good for determining these days.

This is an excellent almanac -- if you can't find it in your bookstore it is available direct from Llewellyn Publications: P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164. 1-800-THEMOON

Please remember, a positive mental attitude when propagating any plant is one of the keys to success!

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