



Propagating Softwood Cuttings

Mitchie & John Moe
Master Rosarians
Pacific Northwest District
American Rose Society

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Steve McCulloch

Olympia Rose Society

Owner, Mountain Shadow Nursery

Past President, International Plant Propagator's Society

Consultant - Rose Hybridizers Association

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To Propagate

The definition of propagation is to create a new plant that is identical to the original plant.

U.S. Plant Patent Act

Under the law, the grant of a patent includes the “right to exclude others from asexually reproducing the plant or selling or using the plant so reproduced.”

Infringement of the patent includes the propagation or sale of a single patented rose, whether for sale or private use without permission.

Cutting - Defined

- Any detached plant part which, when grown under favorable conditions, will produce a new plant identical to the parent plant.
- Types of cuttings
 - Root
 - Leaf
 - Stem

We will be discussing stem cuttings in this program

Stem Cuttings

- One of the simplest methods of propagating new roses is to cut off pieces of the stem and plant them into a growing medium, where they will eventually take root.
- There are two different methods;
 - Hardwood – taken in late fall or early winter
 - Softwood – taken during the growing season
- Let's make some **SOFTWOOD** cuttings today!

Note: The 'baggie' method we will demonstrate is probably the easiest way to propagate softwood cuttings on a small scale, as it provides the humid growing environment necessary for root and new leaf growth.



Photo by Rich Baer

Seattle Sunrise



Photo by Corinne Brown

Hot To Trot

Lets look at how we could make more of these lovelies!



Barbara



Lynn



Judie

Gather Materials

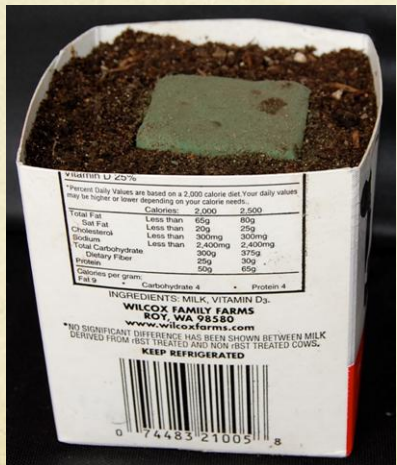
- Your cuttings
- Pots or cut down milk cartons
- Oasis (floral foam) – approx. 1 ½” square by 2” deep, well soaked
- Sterile potting mix – we prefer Sunshine #4
- Rooting hormone – many brands available – Hormodin, Rootone, etc.
- Labels or tags, cup and spoon, pruners that are sharp and clean
- Plastic bag – the milky kind
- Some sticks or wire to support the bag
- Water

Note: The following slides depict the propagation of minis and minifloras. The procedure for HT's and other large roses would be exactly the same, but with larger pots, oasis, etc. Your cuttings should be approximately pencil diameter.

Preparing Growing Container



- Use pot or ½ milk carton. For carton, punch holes in bottom for drainage
- Put potting mix in bottom so top of oasis will be just below top of container



- Insert wet oasis
- Fill container around oasis with potting mix and water well
- Repeat for each cutting

Taking Cuttings



- Take cuttings from healthy stems right after the flowers have faded
- Select a cutting that has three sets of leaves
- Make cuts as shown – just above the top bud eye, and an inch or so below the bottom eye
- Condition – recut under water and let sit for at least 10 minutes

Preparing the Cutting



- Break off any prickles (thorns) that will be down in the oasis
- Wound (scrape) lightly both sides of the bottom inch of the stem
- Roots will form from the wounded area

Dipping the Cutting



- Dip wounded stem in water
- Put a small amount of rooting hormone in a separate container
- Dip in rooting hormone
- Tap gently to shake off any excess and leave a light, even coating
- Discard leftover rooting hormone when finished with all cuttings

Sticking the Cutting



- Make hole in oasis with pencil
- Gently insert cutting into the oasis, **almost to the bottom**. The bud eye of the bottom set of leaves is just below the surface of the oasis
- Gently firm the oasis around the stem

Bagging the Cutting



Note: Clear bag shown for clarity on this drawing only!

This is a NO-NO!

- Use white bag, not clear!
- Insert sticks in corners of the container to keep bag from collapsing
- Label with variety name and date
- Place cutting in bag and mist with a fine spray
- Close bag with rubber band or twist tie

Care of the Cutting



- Place bag in a semi-shaded area out of direct sunlight
- Open bag every few days to ventilate
- Remove fallen or diseased leaves
- Mist lightly and close bag – don't overdo the misting!

This is the right kind of bag!

Checking on the Cutting

- When cuttings root - new growth (leaves) appear
Usually in 5 to 8 weeks.
- To check - tug gently! If resistance, it has rooted!
- Gradually expose to outside air - make holes in bag
- Keep leaves well misted!
- Don't hurry to plant! Can stay in pot/carton for months. Be sure to water!
- When planting, do NOT break apart oasis - roots are very tender, but will grow thru oasis

Questions?

Thank You!